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### FORTY NEGRO PRISONERS

A treatment study of a group of inmates at the State Prison Colony at Norfolk, Massachusetts

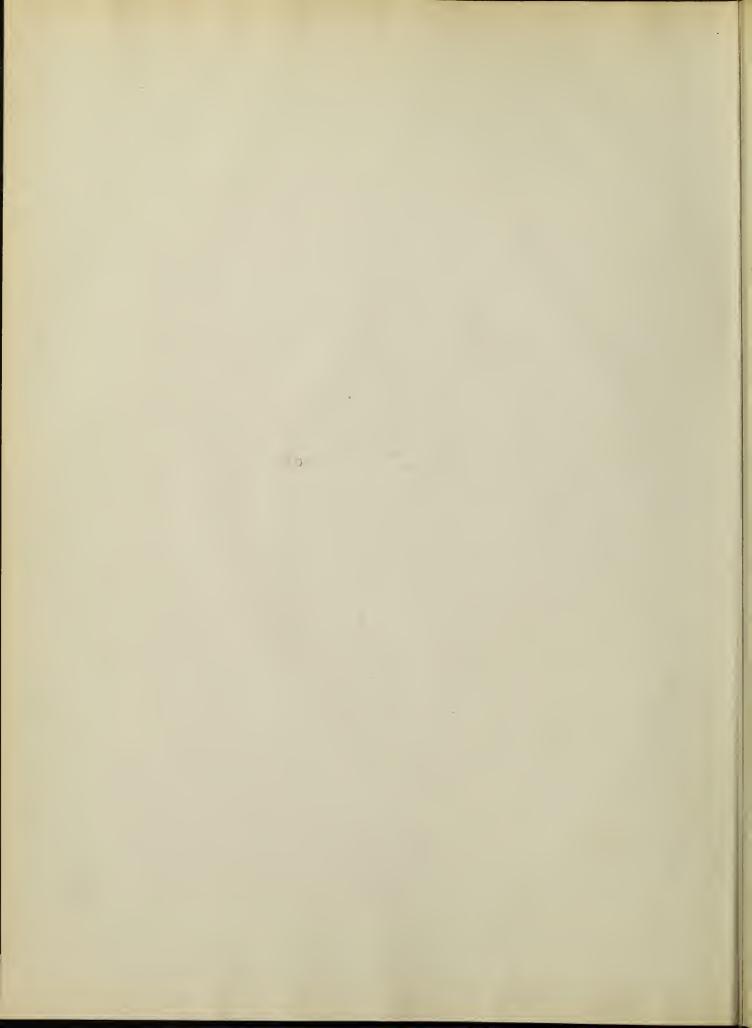
A Thesis

Submitted by

Robert Leob Cooper

(A. B. Virginia Union University, 1931)

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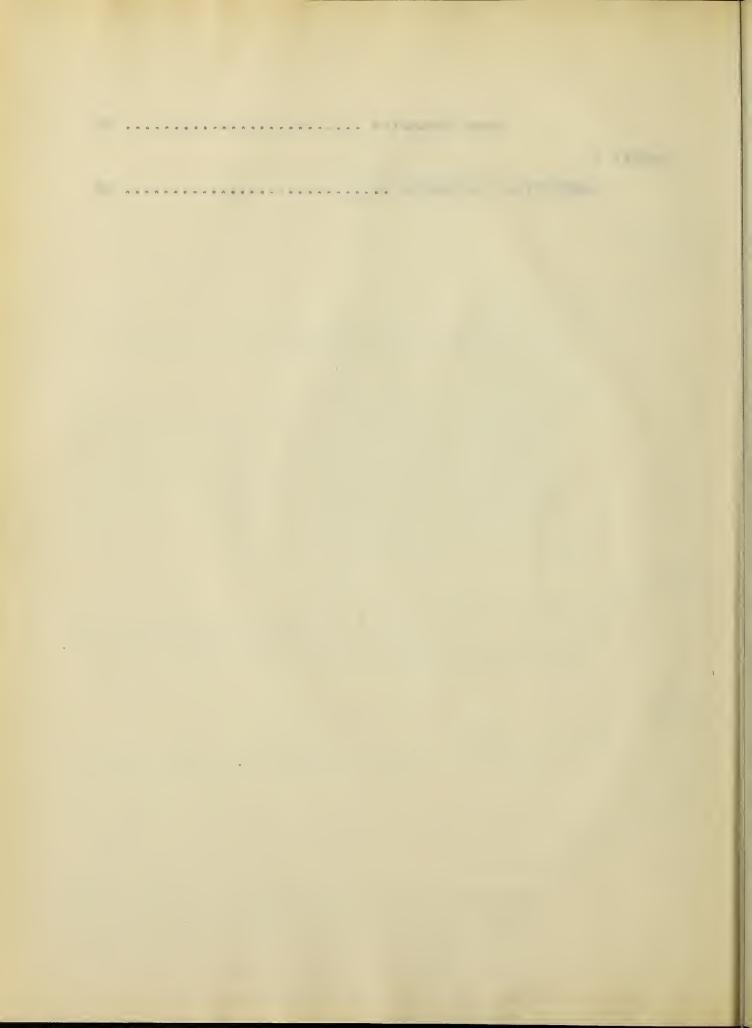


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## FORTY NEGRO PRISONERS

# A TREATMENT STUDY OF A GROUP OF INMATES AT THE STATE PRISON COLONY AT NORFOLK, MASSACHUSETTS

## INTRODUCTION

There is scarcely any problem in America which deserves more searching analyses than that of crime and the criminal. Judged by our record and frequency of crime, we are among the most delinquent of all nations in the world. Different racial groups, that make up the heterogeneous population of American peoples, have been studied. Their contributions to America's problem of crime have been analyzed to some extent and the results laid bare.

Any study of crime or the criminal in America could not be complete without reference to the Negro offender. It is often assumed that this racial group is the most criminal element in our deversified population. Whether this assumption is true or not, there are very definite factors that make the study of the Negro offender one of the most important subjects for research in the criminological and penalogical fields.

The first of these considerations grow out of the fact that Negroes contribute more than their population proportion to American penal institutions. A study of the distribution of Federal sentenced prisoners for the year 1930-1931 gives significant results. "Per 100,000 population, fifteen years old and over, the highest ratio is found for Negroes, 63.3%. The next highest ratio

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is for foreign born whites, 40.9%. The native born whites have a slightly lower ratio than the foreign born whites, 38.2%"(1). Root of the Western Penitentiary of Pittsburg remarks that in Pennsylvania, "the Negro has the greatest frequency of crime of any race when incidence of population is taken into account. Speaking percentally in averages, he commits 13.69 times as much crime as the native whites, and nearly four times as much as the Italian group." (2) According to the Massachusetts Population Statistics for the year 1930, Negroes compose 1.22% of the total Massachusetts population. (3) Loveland finds that at the Massachusetts State Prison, Negroes form 11.1% of the total State Prison Population. (4)

Such proportions quoted above indicate only the apparent and not necessarily the real criminality of the Negro. Such sociologic considerations growing out of America's system of class relationships and the factor of economic exploitation, "do not reflect a difference in respect to criminality between the Negro and the white race in the United States . . It may be there, but it is not, so far demonstrated." (5)

With these alarming ratios of the apparent frequency of crime, little comprehensive study has been given to the causative factors of crime among Negroes. This racial difference in criminality whether real or apparent is not, however, the problem that concerns us here. These astounding population proportions to our penal

<sup>1.</sup> Federal Offenders - 1930-1931, p. 115

<sup>2.</sup> Psychological and Education Survey of 1916 Prisoners, W.T.J. Root

<sup>3.</sup> Massachusetts Population Statistics, 1930, p. 5

<sup>4.</sup> A Statistical Analysis of the Inmate Population of Mass. State Prison, Frank Loveland, p. 20

<sup>5.</sup> Criminalogy - Robert H. Gault. D. 205

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institutions have raised many additional questions -- What are we going to do for the Negro prisoner; what types of treatment shall be applied in efforts at rehabilitation; may the same treatment devices as applied to the white prisoner, be equally effective in the treatment of the Negro prisoner; if so, what treatment measures need special emphasis in reducing individual tendencies toward crime and consequent wholesome social living?

Though the rehabilitation of the institutionalized offender is but a single factor in the reduction of crime, it is at present an indispensable measure—"almost all delinquencies of youth are the expressed social standards of a part of the adult community which flourishes without condemnation. Illustrations are so numerous as to be superflous: graft and corruption in industry, selfishness and indifference to principles of welfare in business, the habit of using persons to one's personal advantage, the tendency to dominate other personalities in order to promote one's selfish ego; all this tends to strengthen the social position of dishonest individuals; it tends to nourish our criminal propensities." (6) Unconsciously evidencing itself in anti-social behavior and crime. Cantor asserts that, "so long as the Western European economic order remains fundamentally unaltered, there is either likelihood of controlling in any large measure the complex factors generating crime." (7)

On the other hand, without scientific study, analysis and classification of these complex casual factors, no improvement in the present conditions generating crime is possible. The remoteness

<sup>6.</sup> Youth In Conflict - Miriam Van Waters, p. 128

<sup>7.</sup> Crime and the Criminal - Nathan L. Canter, p. 24

of the goal does not destroy the need for definite research, the discovery of guiding principles and the effecting of a scientific treatment plan.

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# CHAPTER I

THE NORFOLK PLAN



## THE NORFOLK PLAN

"Our criminal system is an organized attempt to produce white by two blacks." This is George Bernard Shaw's opinion of the English prison system. In reviewing the history of American penal philosophies, and programs, we find this statement applies equally to our so-called correctional institutions. Older prisons operating on the principle of social retaliation or public vengeance succeed extremely well in convincing the inmate, during his incarceration, of his yellow streak, his vile and damnable nature. They cow him so thoroughly by repressive influence, by the lack of opportunities, by impressing upon him his own impotence, ignorance, and criminal ity that when he is turned loose again, he is in many instances more of a potential criminal character than he was when he entered prison walls.

Sheldon Glueck remarks that eighty percent of the men incarcerated at Concord, (Massachusetts Reformatory) are not reformed, but are failures (1) Our Charlestown (Massachusetts State Prison) population shows that eighty percent of the inmates have been convicted of a criminal offense before their sentence to State Prison - Only one person in five sentenced to this institution is a first offender. (2) Of the cases included in this study, fifty-two and five tenths percent have served previous sentences in some "correctional institution."

Fortunately, our American penal system is not old enough to be bound by sacred traditions or unquestionable dogma. The spirit

<sup>1.</sup> Five Hundred Criminal careers - Sheldon Glueck - Foreword
2. A Statistical Analysis of the Inmate Population of the Mass.
State Prison, 1929, Frank Loveland, p. 9

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of scientific investigation has entered the field of criminology attacking its falacious concepts of treatment and likewise proposed a different program based upon the new and more progressive principles of human adjustments and relationships.

Criminology has taken over the medical concept and regards the crime as a symptom with an objective origin. Today, there is a definite body of knowledge which enables us to trace mental symptoms to their origins, and the study of the criminal has become a distinct department of this new science, a branch of individual psychology. It is a practical application of known psychological principles to cases of maladjusted personalities in an effort to discover causes and to effect cures. It is not a fight against symptoms but against causes. There is also the recognition of the fact that individuals are unique psychobiological entities, no two with mental and organic mechanisms alike; that if maladjusted persons are to be effectively treated, it cannot be done in mass; that any constructive treatment plan for criminals must be predicated on a knowledge of their individual needs.

With these basic concepts, this newer school has introduced into the study of the delinquent the technique and application of "social case work" which has long been used in the legal, medical, and more recently in the social service fields. "Scientific case work aims to regard each individual as a unique human being, with a special constitution, a special life history, a special place and problem of his own." (1) This individual approach recognizes that "no human action is a sudden, isolated birth of will. It has its gradual genesis, a seed, a root growth, a fruitification. A survey

<sup>1.</sup> Youth in Conflict - Miriam Van Waters, p. 38

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of the present must be supplemented by a history of the past." (1)

The processes that lead up to "social deiagnosis" are:

First, a collection of evidence through first relations with the inmate, the inmate's family and all other sources of insight in addition to the family group - a search for causative factors.

Second, a comparison of this collected evidence gathered from various sources - inference - the writing of the complete case history.

Third, an interpretation of the meanings of the material of the case history - diagnosis. After the diagnosis has been made, a program of treatment is proposed and the treatment process consciously begins - therapy. All individual programs are subject to changes, modifications, or revisions, during the treatment process as accumulating sources of insight into individual problems show themselves.

One of the fundamental concepts of the "Morfolk Plan" is the individualization of treatment operating toward the reduction of criminality. This attitude admits a subtle recognition of certain elements in the personality of the offender which have heretofore been glaringly ignored - elements that in the maladjusted personality are significant from the standpoint of treatment. One important characteristic of human behavior which we all admit, that expressed by Joseph Conrad in the words, "We live as we dream - alone", is rarely recognized and even less considered in the treatment of maladjusted personalities. An inmate recently transferred to Norfolk from the State Prison at Charlestown has

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vividly expressed this in the following words:

"You know, it's impossible to get to know the mind of a man who has been behind the bars for sometime....Something happens to a person, something changes him; instead of becoming insensitive to rebuff and neglect as is often thought, he becomes more sensitive, he suffers, he worries, and it sends him crawling off to himself where he lives in a world where no one can enter or disturb. Oh yes, he fools around with the life in the prison and kids back and forth with the rest of the man, but it isn't his real self."

This statement taken for what it is worth gives some idea of the depth and scope of the problems involved. There are conscious efforts to penetrate this individual silence and solitude; to evaluate motives and attitudes; to apply definite psychological therapy in the process of tackling the tendency to non-conformity, to anti-social living, in short to reduce individual tendences toward crime. The interest is in motives rather than mechanisms, with particular interest in the attitudes of the criminal and the formulation and development of them in a social setting.

The ther basic concept of the "Norfolk Plan" is the socialization of the offender. By socialization is meant the restoration of men to normal on the assumption that any man who is anti-social is somewhat abnormal. "The restoration of men physically, mentally, philosophically, socially, domestically, vocationally, avocationally, and recreationally helps to establish a sound, well-balanced human being," (1) who makes at least potentially a good citizen.

Such objectives make necessary a different type of environment from the monotonous drabness and regimentation characteristic of the life of the older prisoners. There is, therefore, the

<sup>1.</sup> Lecture to Student Assistants - Summer, 1932, H. B. Gill

the attempt at Norfolk to establish as near as possible normal community life within prison walls. The architectural designs carry out this idea of normal community life with the minimum, limited, and maximum security buildings. Besides the different types of living quarters, there is the farm, the industries, the school, the church, the hospital, the community building and the jail. All these help to build up a normal, community atmosphere.

This concept of treatment has not only necessitated a different type of prison architecture, but also a different type of prison personnel. The prisoner in a majority of cases has failed because he has not been understood: the home, the school. the church, and even society were not able to save him for the same reason. Our success can be achieved only through a genuine understanding of the personality and an adaptation of treatment to specific needs. The ability to analyze the needs of a distorted mind may only come to an individual with meen powers of insight. plus the right kind of training in practical psychology. The writing of case histories and the formulation of individual programs of treatment at Norfolk are done by the Diagnostic Division, composed of persons with specific training and education in this new science of human adjustments. Taking the place of the old type prison guards there are "house officers" - resident social case workers. They live in the several dormitory units with the inmates: observe them at their work, at their play, live close enough to them to be able to understand their joys and their fears. Each "house officer" is assigned not more than twenty-five inmates for whom he is responsible in the carrying out of their individual programs of

treatment. The regular prison guards are in a spearate and distinct division, and their duties are purely custodial.

Together with these basic principles and the normal functioning of the several departments - the Educational, Construction Maintencance, Recreational and Medical, there are other features of the "Norfolk Plan" that are unique and deserve special mention here:

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## Classification

The classification of immates of penal institutions is not a new idea. Such factors as age, race, type of offense and length of sentence have been used as the basis for classification programs.

At Norfolk there is a different concept of classification—
it is essentionally a treatment classification. Rehabilitation
means bringing to bear upon the individual all the techniques
that have been developed to change human behavior for the better.
There are specialists in each of the progressive fields of human
relationships and their methods are not mutually exclusive.

Classification according to treatment means the selection of the
type of specialist who will be most effective in curbing antisocial behavior. The following is a summary of the treatment
classification program operative at Norfolk:

Situational- The treatment of this group will be mainly in the hands of the Social Worker. Such work includes: solving family problems, building up cultural levels, accumulation of trade skill, assistance in securing lucrative positions, providing

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variety of interests and the teaching of healthy uses of leisure time. Their greatest need is the re-arranging of factors in their external situations.

Personality: The treatment of this group is directed by the Psychologist. The criminals in this group, no matter what their situation would tend, because of their inner natures, to release their anti-social behavior. Pheir emotional life needs re-adjustment. The treatment proceeds along the lines of giving the criminal a better insight into his emotional life, or to provide an emotional catharsis, or to provide outlets which will absorb emotions in a normal and social manner.

A-social- The treatment of this group will be directed by the Educator. It is his job to re-educate and socialize these other-wise normal individuals. One of his methods is the arranging of a particular situation (the Council and Committees - a joint government scheme) so that these men will have a constant object lesson in socialization and will learn methods of adjusting their egocentric needs with those of their group.

Medical- Those inmates are classified as medical cases when such treatment has a direct relationship to their criminality. For instance, if a man was highly emotional, and lacked emotional control because of a gladular disturbance, and this was closely related to his criminality, then the doctor would be the specialist in charge of this treatment. Otherwise, medical treatment is considered as routine.

Custodial— This group includes the aged and feebleminded individuals whose only need is supervision. Presuming, of course, that they have been educated up to their respective capacities. Other than supervision they receive routine treatment.

No inmate may fall exclusively into either of these groups. It is recognized that individuals may not be classified so accurately. Each inmate may need be a combination of these treatment measures. That aspect of his situation that is most responsible for his criminality with due recognition of the others, is the basis of this treatment classification. It is assumed that no matter what treatment objective is selected for a man, he will always receive routine treatment - he will be fed, housed, clothed, offered recreation, industrial educational and religious outlets. His entire life in the penal community will be so ordered and arranged as to provide for him the minimum amount of conflict and the maximum amount of opportunities for normal and progressive living.

## Housing

The gradations of restrictions within the wall vary from the cell block, where men are housed in cells, locked in at night or for all day, and the Grade A dormitory where the minimum of restrictions are used. The Grade B. Dormitory has more restrictions than A., but less than C - the Receiving Duilding. At present two principles are proposed to govern assignments:

- 1. What response is the man making to treatment
- Response to Treatment: A man will be rewarded for good response to treatment, no matter what his past history, or his psychological classification, providing he is not a dangerous behavior problem. Elements in response to treatment include:
- 1. An insight into his problem and active concern in solving it on his own initiative.

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- 2. Plan for social adjustment.
- 3. Good workman in house and on job.
- 4. Thoroughly cooperative in community activities and in harmony with the institutional policies.
- 5. Is providing some objective evidence of overcoming his crinimality.

For the individuals who measure up to the above standard, the most desirable types of building are reserved. This is an A type dormitory. Every possible opportunity for individual improvement is afforded these men.

The B dormitory will house those who are:

- 1. Non-cooperative work, family, community, activities and educational programs, etc.
- 2. Grasping without contribution-chronic fault-finders, noisy in houses, etc.
- 3. Somewhat a behavior problem. Leaders of antagonistic groups.
  - 4. Expending no effort in overcoming crinimality.

The B type domitory offers more security, has more restrictions than A dormitory and the primary job of the officer is supervision.

Type C building is reserved for the new arrivals to be studied; suspected homo-sexuals, suspected dope users, contagious behavior problems and the aggressively antagonistic. (1)

l. This discussion on both treatment and housing classification was taken from an unpublished thesis of M. C. Roser, state Prison Colony, Norfolk, Mass.

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### Vocational Placement Department

The funtions of this department are to bring each inmate to his most satisfactory vocational adjustment, both in the institution and upon release. There is the attempt to combine the opinion of the Case work, Educational, Medical, Family Welfare, Maintenance, Industrial, Administrative and Custodial Departments in all matters of job transfer and vocational placements.

A detailed study of each immate's past record, both in civilian and institutional life is given to the department by the Gase Work Division, giving as much as possible of the man's education, vocation and avocation. The "sychometrists submits the following data on each immate: Aptitude or vocational bent occupational interest, educable vocational capacities. Supplementing this information, reports are received from each of the several departmental heads, including the Diagnostic Division's recommendations of placement for therapeutic reasons. Jobs of institutional need are to funtion especially in the cases of men whose limits of dewlopment are definite and whose response to treatment objectives has been negligible.(1)

## The Community Service Department

The normal functioning of the comparatively unrestricted community like of Norfolk is the joint responsibility of both inmates and staff. The Council "composed of two inmate representatives from the several dormitory units, meet once each week.

<sup>1.</sup> See case summary Number Three p. 39 - 41

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usually with the Superintendent and always with other staff representatives, to discuss policies and programs concerning every phase of the institutional life. In connection with the Council program, there are committees covering every organized activity of the larger community life. The chairman of the committee is a member of the council.

Each council term consist of four months of active work. At the end of this period there is a general election (council members subject to the approval of the staff) and another group of immates become actively responsible for the Council and committee programs. At the present time there are over one hundred immates members of the Council and related committees.

The Council is the most important unit of inmate machinery of the institution. It serves quite adequately the function of a "safety valve"-an outlet for open and frank discussion of things that inmates desire and feel strongly about. Inmate participation in the affairs of the community makes them realize that Norfolk in a large measure is what they make it; depending upon their responsiveness, their cooperation and the extent to which they carefully execute the definite responsibilities placed upon them.

The work of this department is essentially that of socialization - the degree to which an individual has learned to subordinate his impulses to the welfare of the entire group. Inmates are taught through group participation that individual opinions

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are worthwhile only as they contribute to group welfare, or the larger life of the entire community. The distinctly a-social type of inmate, the extreme individualist whose motivating force has been the gratification of his selfish ego, among other things needed in such a case is re-education or socialization - the conscious realization of social responsibility.

#### The Family Welfare Division

This department is concerned with individual work with inmates and their families and is a special division of the case work department. The question of family relationships is an important factor in the process of rehabilitation. In some instances, the greatest single factor entering into individual crime causation has its root in home or family situations. In such cases the whole case work program is built up around these circumstances operating toward a wholesome adjustment through special efforts of this department.

Very often there are strained relationships between the inmate and his wife, his children, his mother and father or his outside friends whom he has expected not sympathy, but kindly understanding from. Again families are in need of financial aid because of old age, sickness, unemployment or etc. Normal adjustments are sought through appeals to both private and public social service agencies. If no aid can be received, there is

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a Cooperative Aid Fund (Money derived from 25% of the profits of the two inmate stores, supplemented by personal contributions) used by this department in aiding inmates families over economic thresholds. There are problems of a personal nature such as forms of insurance, pensions, mortgages etc. that call for immediate personal attention. Transporation for some member of an inmate's family, affording him an occasional visit is still another detail of treatment. There are special efforts by this department to find suitable employment for men released from Norfolk. The first consideration is given inmates elegible for parole. For a suitable job is one of the requirements for men released on parole.

These are in brief the main functioning of this division. There are little possibilities for constructive treatment if a man's mind is concerned about strained relationships, if his family is suffering from lack of economic support, if there is some personal problem that needs immediate personal attention, if he cannot have a visit because financially his wife cannot afford it. What ever the exaggerations and limitations of psychoanalysis it has supported through comulated evidence the fact that one's emotional equipment is the greatest single factor in the process of adjusting to the situations of life.

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Under direction of the Family Welfare Department

The idea of sponsorship is not new in social work, but is comparatively recent in the treatment of the adult offender.

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The idea of sponsorship as referred to Norfolk means the influence of normal persons of the outside, knowing the facts of the case, who are willing to stand by and assist with genuine friendliness and understanding for individual inmates in their efforts toward normal wholesome industrial and social relationships.

all efforts at rehabilitation are directed toward successful adjustments in the outside world. The inmate must eventually come back to society - adjustments to be successful must be assisted by outside persons who form the society. Sponsorship aims to bridge this gap between the institution and the outside world. There are very definite efforts to get socially minded individuals interested in at least one immate to the extent that he is a TRIEND to the immate and his family during his incarceration and for such a time after release as necessary. Post parole activities of sponsors are in cooperation with the regular parole officers.

Innates from broken homes; from homes with unwholesome family backgrounds; those inmites having no one particular interested in them and their development, those lonely individuals with no direct contact with the outside world - for them a oponsor may transform their conception of a cold and friendless world to a more wholesome concept of positive friendship, of kindly understanding, effecting their whole point of view toward society and social relationships (1)

## Avocational Opportunities

The development of wholesome, interesting and creative leisur time acitivities is good mental therapy for any person and see case summary number three, p.

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capacially so for the prisoner. it the limits of his world so narrow, his minimized outside contacts and the ever present fact of his imprisonment, if his leisure time is filled with imaginary thoughts and morbid introspection there is unconsciously created a distorted point of view and perverted attitudes, eventuating into what Victor Nelson so vividly describes as "prison stupor", which he asserts is perhaps the most devestating result of incarceration for a number of years in the older type penal institution (1)

An interesting leisure time avocational pursuit not only affords a pleasurable wholesome hobby, it may mean development and proficiency in a craft or an ort that may definitely prove to be a vocation and an auxiliary means of a livelihood for the inmate and his family (2)

The atmosphere of Norfolk consciously through a definite concern about avoc tional interests in the formulation of individual programs of treatment, and unconsciously by the leisure time encouragement and facilities afforded, makes this detail of treatment a very important factor in its larger program of treatment of maladjusted personalities. (3)

The administrative machinery of the entire institution formulates its policies and programs around the basic concept of the individualization of treatment. Norfolk is a young institution

<sup>1.</sup> Prison Days - Victor Nelson

<sup>2.</sup> See ca e summar es Numbers 1 and 22. p. 37 & 53

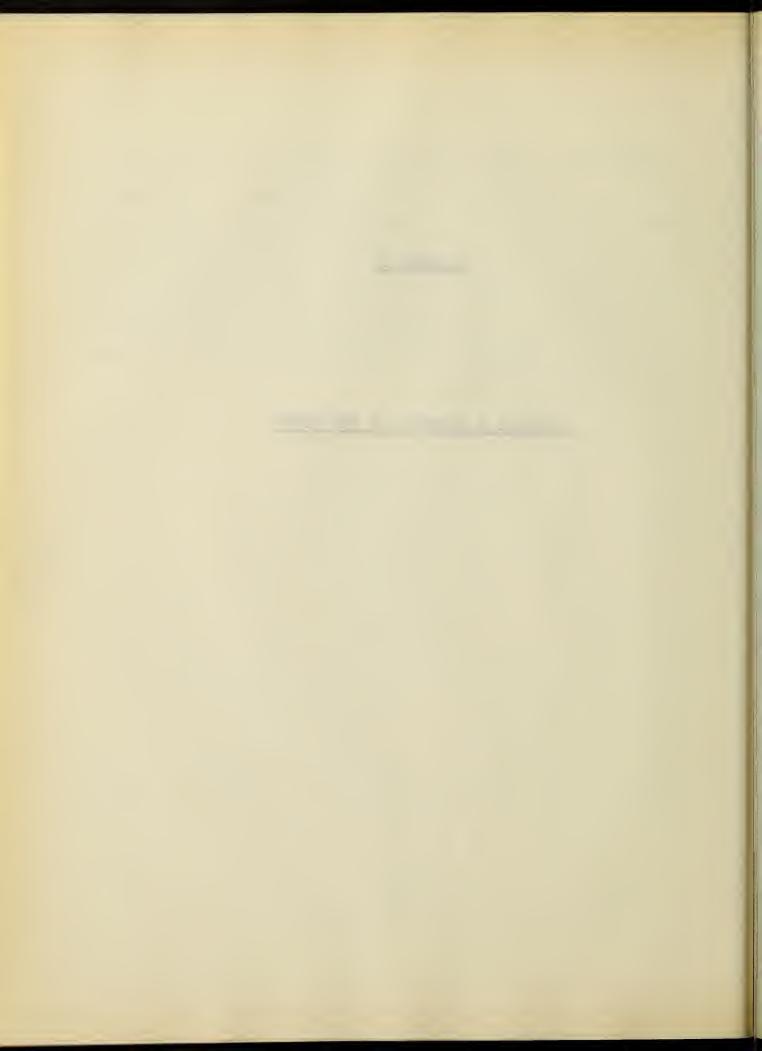
<sup>3.</sup> See case summaries Numbers 3.p. 39

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(established in 1927). The superintendent has remarked that it is now in its adolescent stage of development. Administrative details are constantly undergoing revisions and change, but the concept of treatment as contrasted with that of punishment; of the individual approach as contrasted with mass management; of the development of personality as contrasted with repression - these are the fundamental principles around which the adminstration of Norfolk revolves.

# CHAPTER II

PURPOSES & METHODS OF THE STUDY



#### PURPOSE & METHOD OF STUDY

This study is essentially an analyses of treatment measures as they have operated toward reducing individual tendencies toward crime and consequent normal wholesome living. No attempt has been made to discover socialogic factors that enter into the larger problem of crime causation. The purposes of the study may be listed as follows: --:

1. To evaluate the treatment methods in dealing with a group of inmates at the State Prison Colony, Norfolk Massachusetts from the standpoint of:

First: Causative factors as they enter into the crime causation of the individual case.

second: Diagnostic Analysis, the proposed individual programs of treatment growing out of the materials that have been collected in the search for causative factors.

Third: Theurapeutic Measures. The extent to which the proposed program was followed through; and other factors that have entered into the case that call for consideration in the treat-ment program.

2. To evaluate other influences found to have consciously or inconsciously operated in these cases toward social adjustment and rehabilitation.

The method of approach has been that of intensive study of the individual cases by investigation, (1) of case histories; (2) of diagnostic summaries; (3) and of the institutional histories, a record of the inmates activities since his transfer to Norfolk. All this information was collected from the materials of the institutional files.

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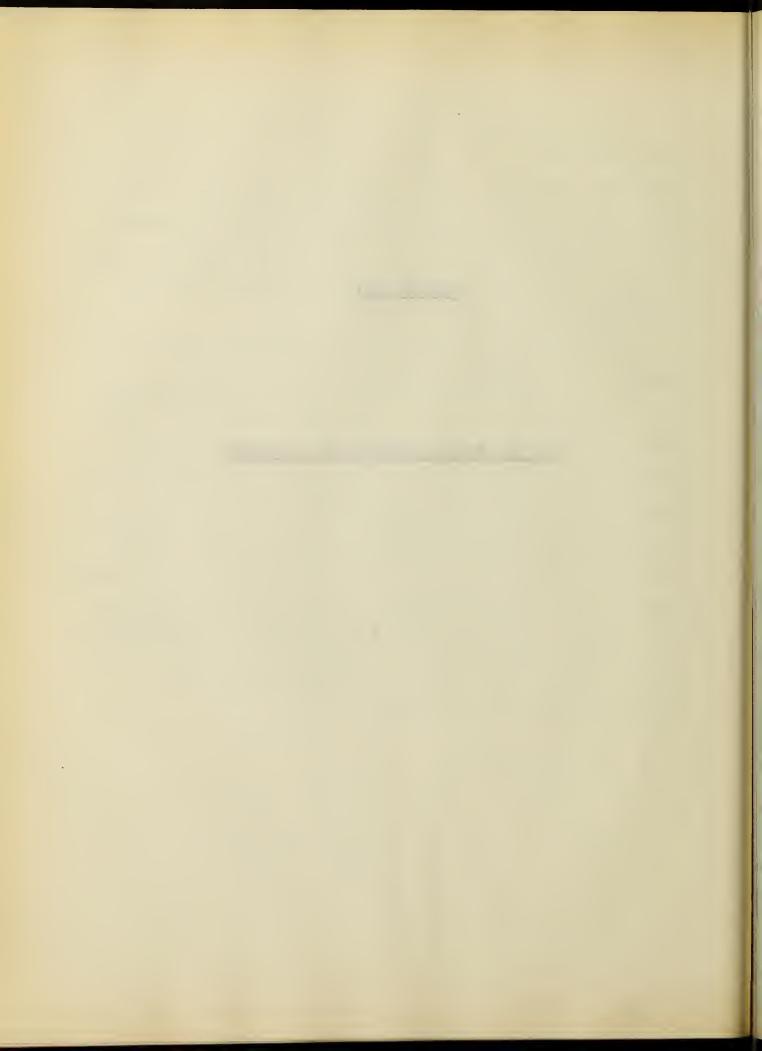
This collected data has been supplemented by repeated interviews with (1) each inmate studied; (2) each house officer (resident social case worker) concerning the inmates whose case work program he is responsible for, and (3) all departmental heads who have direct contact with each of the inmates. The results of each interview were recorded and filed with the materials of the respective cases.

This study is the result of ten months full time work at Norfolk. The first four months were spent as an assistant to the Community Service and the Case Work Departments. During these months, most of my inmate contacts were among the men included in this study. The last six months have been devoted almost exclusively to this research task, for each case summary presented here, there has been repeated contact and association with the individual inmates. These case summaries are reported because the ideas, and programs, here described have seemed to to be helpful both in the treatment and in the understanding of the possibilities for success or rehabilitation of the institutionalized Negro offender.

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# CHAPTER III

AN INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM OF TREATHENT



When the inmates are transferred to Norfolk from the state frison at Charlestown and the Massachusetts Reformatory at Concord, they are housed in the Receiving Building (the maximum security building) and are segregated from the rest of the Colony for thirty days. This time serves as a kind of orientation period into Norfolk, its policies, and programs. The atmosphere of Norfolk is so different from that characteristic of older prisons, that this gradual introduction in the comparatively normal life of the community seemed necessary.

when the new men arrive at Norfolk, they are given a lecture, usually by the superintendent concerning the philosophy and basic ideas of Norfolk. At different times during this thirty day period, the directors of the several departments give an informal talk to these men on the functions of their respective departments. An inmate member of the Council also talks to these men about the JOINT RESPONSIBILITY of both inmates and staff for the normal functioning of the community life.

During this period, the inmates are interviewed by the several departmental heads (Medical, Educational, Family Welfare etc.), and the members of the Diagnostic Division (the Socialogist, the Psychologist, the Psychometrists) The reports of each of these interviews are sent to the Diagnostic Division. On the basis of the collected materials of the case history and the divisional reports, a preliminary program of treatment is proposed and the

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treatment program consciously begins. This program is subject to revisions, changes and modifications, during the institutional life of the inmate at Norfolk.

After the thirty day period, if the inmate has shown his cooperativeness in following his proposed program and demonstrates his willingness to become a member of the larger community, he is transferred to one of the several domitory units.

The following is an example of the formulated individual program of treatment. The immediate and future programs as it appears in the case summaries presented, is a summary of the detailed treatment program:

#### INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM

HOME- Has no cue as to the whereabouts of his wife and child who left him at the time of his difficulty. Is writing to parents in Suffolk, Virginia. He hopes to go back there.

VOCATION- Worked as painter and paper hanger. Pays he desires to learn a trade that will give him steady employment. Has worked around docks. No place on construction can be given him now because of his physical condition.

AVOCATION- Plays the guitar fairly well.

An effort should be made to find his wife and to see if she will have him back. He says he would be glad to reunite with her. Unless she is wiser than before, however, her blundering attempts at control might open up old difficulties. But that he have a woman of the right type seems necessary.

He hit the nail on the head when he said he needed a trade that would keep him busy. Emphasis should be on keeping him busy, rather than on the skill of the trade. His lack of education obviates anything more than a semi-skilled occupation. His work here will depend most largely on his physical condition.

This should be encouraged and appreciated and used as a means to approach and control him.

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EDUCATION- Wholly illiterate.
No schooling. Seems fitted for unskilled work.

Enrolled in elementary academic class. His need is so great here that it seems impossible but that he will be helped. But he must not be given the impression that his success in life depends upon his getting an education. He has too far to go and too little time. Rather he should be taught what one can do without much education, lest he aim beyond his capacity.

AECKLATION- His avocation, the guitar, serves as his recreation.

he should be encouraged to take in something more social. Or if he has no taste for this, one should know the reason why. It might rell be symptomatic.

HEALTH- Bullet wound in left shoulder, leaves him rather badly crippled with a curious blood vessel disorder.

Should do none but light work. nim physical condition will be carefully studied.

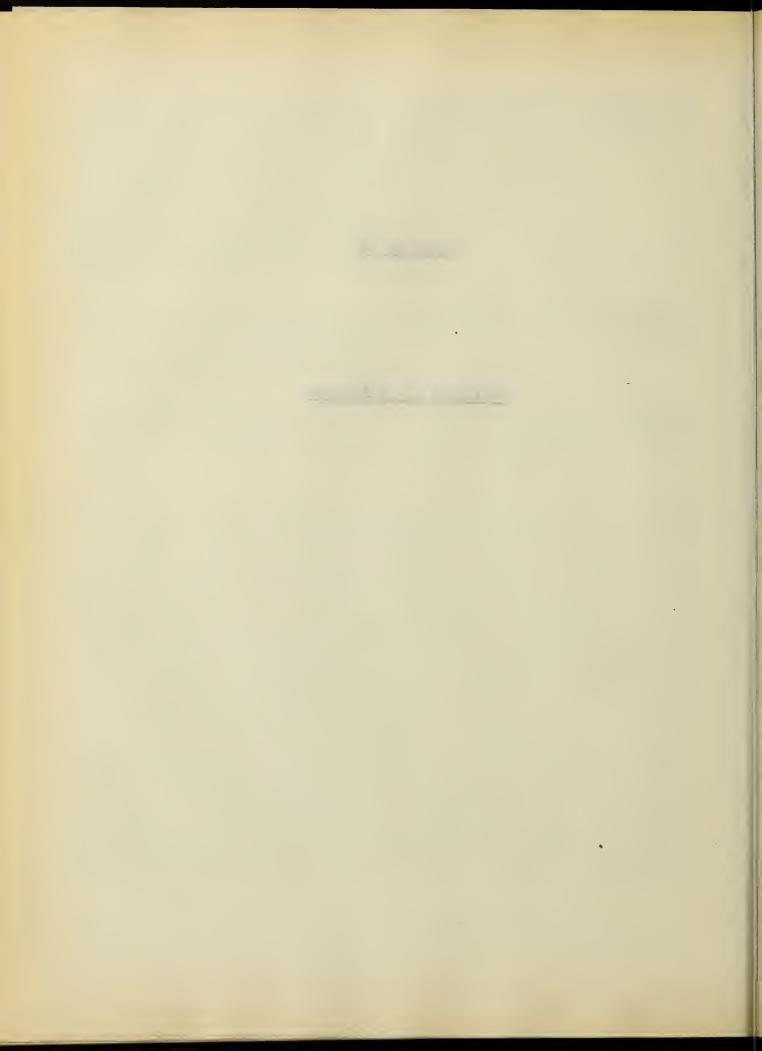
PARSONAL- Negro of the erotic type. Alcoholism tied up with his emotional life. Sexual maladjustment with possibly large homosexual component. Has a social conscience, but also tricks for avoiding it. He will do a small thing that is wrong, invite your punishment, and then use this as an excuse for going the whole length of badness. Again he will set for himself goals which are quite leyond his capacity for achievement, and then at the alightest suggestion of failure, he will give up the attempt with "aw what's the use" and start in the opposite direction. Or, if you begin to take an interest in his welfare, he will try to make you completely responsible for his behavior, thus getting rid of his inner approbrium, Even when he admits his guilt, and exaggerates his own fault there is the suggestion of conscience bribing. In controlling him then, one should avoid direct condemnation or command. A friendly and diplomatic approach would probably meet with more success. In other words, the thing to do, is to keep him conscious of his guilt without at tempting to be dominant. He would respond to dominance at the moment and then begin plotting some deviltry for which he would be sure to be punished. It is necessary to his reformation that he have strong emotional ties to people who are moral but who do not stress morality too much. His aiming too high should be guarded against especially. Let him gain satisfaction from each short step toward improvement.

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# CHAPTER IV

ANALYSES OF MATERIALS

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# STATISTICAL ANALYSES OF CASE HISTORIES

# Case History Analyses-Statistical

Number of S. P. C. Case histories	7
Number of S. P. Case histories	33
Ratings of S. P. C. case histories:-	
(1) Very good Good Fair	5
Ratings of S. P. case histories:-	

Very good	8
Good	7
	8
Poor	6

Ratings of Massachusetts Reformatory case histories:-

Poor---- 4

Total

See attached sheet for LEGEND

1. No attempt is made at Norfolk to write complete and detailed case histories. The emphasis is placed on those features of the subject's life that have entered into the individual crime causation.

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#### LEGEND:

Very Good-

Histories with complete data concerning the following and whole or partial verification of the same, listing sources of information:

Family background
Parental
Siblings
Inmates own family
Early history
School achievements
Work and industrial record
Social life and associates
Religion
Personality
Mental
Hedical
Delinquent career.

Good: -

Histories having enough of the above data to give a sufficiently comprehensive picture, and most of the date verified.

Fair: -

Histories, the data of which is fragmentary or in some of its essential parts is erroneous; little or no verification.

Poor:-

Histories, the data of which is so meagre that they are of little or no value.

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# Analyses of Individual Programs - Statistical

Programs (1)Programs	made	bv	the	House	Offic	ers -	 	 1 (
No progra	am						 	 40

## Ratings of Individual Programs:

Verv	good		5
Good			20
Fair			11
Incor	mplete		4
Tota.		-	40

See attached sheet for LEGEND

1. The Diagnostic Division is responsible for the formulation of all Individual Programs. The house Officers are consulted, but no longer propose the treatment programs.

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# Analyses of Individual Programs continued:

#### LEGEND:

Very goodPrograms including recommendations or at least of statement regarding the following aspects of treatment:

Home
Industrial
Educational
Personality and attitudes
Recreation
Avocation
Associates
Social and community Service
Mental
Medical

GoodPrograms incomplete as to the above, but containing treatment recommendations on all essential points of the individual case.

Programs the treatment plan of which fails to meet the essential needs of the case, or inadequate recommendations.

IncompletePrograms with little or no recommendations, wrong conclusions, no program proposed.

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## SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS (academic) BEFORE COMMITMENT

## Number of cases

Illiterate	5) no
Can read and write	3) schooling
Completed grades 1st through 5th	
Completed 6th grade	
Completed 7th grade	
Completed 8th grade	
Completed 2 years of high school	
Completed 3 years of high school	
Completed high school	1
No.	
4	0

II

# BROKEN-HOME RELATIONSHIPS

	Number
Long or complete absence of one or both parents. Absence of one or both parents when the offenders	
were at the formative or impresionable age of 14 or under	
Total broken-home relationships	

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# ANALYSES OF PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS

Table 1 of the table 1 of ta	
	Number
*Total having served no previous sentence Total having served some previous sentence	19 21
	40 cases
Classification of previous sentences	
Place	Number
Houses of Correction	2
*Two of the cases included in this group have sentences of probation.	received
**Six have had likewise sentences in houses of two in industrial schools.	correction, and
IV ANALYSES OF PRESENT SENTENCES	
Types of offences	Number
Predatory crimes	13 5
Labor troubles	40 cases
γ	
ANALYSES OF PLACE OF BIRTH & EARLY RE	
Northern born	Number  18 14 8 40 cases

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The summaries of case studies presented in these passages have been selected from the cases included in this study to illustrate certain factors in the treatment plan at Norfolk. The analyses are concerned with the more significant events in the lives of these men regarded from the standpoint of therapy and treatment. No attempt has been made to present the complete case studies here. The objects have been:

- I. TO POINT OUT DEFINITE FACTORS OR FORCES THAT UNDOUBTEDLY ARE IN THE BACKGROUND OF THE SUBJECTS' CRIMINALITY.
- II. TO EVALUATE THE TREATMENT PROGRAMS.
- III. TO POINT OUT ERRORS AND OMISSIONS IN DIAGNOSES AND TREATMENT OBJECTIVES.
  - IV. TO SUGGEST ADDITIONAL TREATMENT OBJECTIVES TO SUPPLEMENT THESE PRESENT PROGRAMS.

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#### Case #38

OFFENSE: -- Robbery. Sentence: -Four to five years. No record of previous sentences or commitments.

ARTHURS, age twenty-nine, was born in South Carolina of illiterate parents. When he was six, his mother died; and he lived with his grandmother until he was nine years old. At that age, he left home and joined a minstrel show and has wandered about the South from one state to another the greater part of his life. There was a half-sister whom he judges is about forty-five years old. Her residence is unknown. Arthurs has had no direct contact with his family since he left home.

He is totally illiterate, has never attended any school. He has worked at many things from acting, engineering, cooking, painting to general laboring. His statements regarding cooking and painting have been verified. Arthurs has no family background nor parental care. He has grown up illiterate, with no abiding interests, no definite vocation and no friends, because of his life of wanderlust. He has lived a "day to day existence."

(1) Arthurs claims that he has been married. In 1927, his wife left him and took with her their only child. He does not know where his wife is nor is he interested in attempts to locate her. Admits he was accustomed to occasional drinking, but after marital difficulties and a long period of unemployment, he became more addicted to excessive drinking.

He gives as reasons for his crime: Excessive drinking and bad companions growing out of marital difficulties and unemployment.

## DIAGNOSTIC SUMMARIES OF FINDINGS:

Personality estimates: "Pleasant and neat, exhibiting no vicious traits, suggestible and lacks initiative and guiding principles to his life."

Causative factors: "A low, cultural background, illiterate broken home, and drink."

Immediate and future program: Educational program to build up cultural level and vocational ability.

(1) Not in case history. Result of interviews.

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Special training in the use of leisure time; upon release to tie up with responsible employer and good community ties.

## THE INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY GIVES US THE FOLLOWING:

Arthurs has completed one year of elementary academic work and has started on his second year. "Progress slow, but interest and application excellent". He is slowly learning to read and write. Arthurs is a regular attendant at the weekly discussion groups on events of Negro history in an effort to supplement his lack of early cultural influences. Most of his spare time is spent in study and practice play on the guitar. He is working in the kitchen in order to keep in touch with his outside employment and to make himself more efficient in this line of work. He receives no visits or correspondence. The Family Welfare Department is actively interested in securing for him an interested sponsor. One sponsor was secured but House Officer states: "Man needs another sponsor, for this sponsor has difficulty in making visits." Another probable person for his sponsor has made one visit to Norfolk to see him.

This man's illiteracy has about been overcome. His interest and efforts along these lines have been excellent. He has shown a measure of stability in that he has worked at his job in the kitchen some fourteen months and over with work reports and relations with other workers good. Definite attempts have been made to tie him up with an interested sponsor and the problem is at present receiving the attention of the Family Welfare Department. These achievements are the result of the Case Work Program as planned by the Diagnostic Division.

There is no mention of Arthurs' marital relationships; the case history records that he is single. The circumstances connected with this relationship should have been listed along with other "causative factors." There is very probably a definite correlation between his drinking and his marital difficulties. Attempts should be made to locate his wife; a reconciliation may not be hopeful or advisable, but the man's knowledge of his child, perhaps a picture of her, might unconsciously operate as a stablizing force, giving his here-to-fore drab existence color and interest, stimulating a desire for purposeful activity. He has already expressed the desire to be economically responsible for the education of the child.

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Instead of drifting without any objective, interest in music has been developed or aroused, although there was definite mention of music in the case work program. The atmosphere of Norfolk afforded the natural setting for this development, which may be called an accidental achievement growing out of unconscious influences of the Norfolk philosophy.

Arthurs' attitude has been very cooperative in the following of his program. He has a good understanding of his former handicaps and is earnestly trying to overcome them. Prognosis is hopeful.

#### Case #16

OFFENSE: -- Larceny. Sentence: Two consecutive sentences of from three to five years.

JAMES is the swaggering, self-satisfied dandy. He is thirty-five, and grew up in a tenement district of Boston. His mother was employed as a domestic out of the home. The father died when James was an infant. At ten, he was sent to Lyman School for truancy. At seventeen, he enlisted in the U. S. Navy where he remained for seven years. Since then, he has come in contact with the police and courts frequently, and has spent considerable time in "correctional institutions". In 1926, he was committed to Massachusetts Reformatory and has been there twice since. He has also served a sentence in the House of Correction.

James is a grammar school graduate. His school days were interrupted by his commitment to Lyman. After leaving the Navy, where he worked as a cook, he was employed intermittently as a cement mixer, shoe trimmer, assistant janitor, and general laborer. was married in 1924, separated in 1930 because of his wife's unfaithfulness and "too much mother-in-law". His wife is known to have served a jail sentence and one year before marriage was committed to the House of the Good Shepherd. He has had no contact with her since separation and wishes to have nothing more to do with her. He gives his wife and her actions as causes for his crime.

James' associates were for the most part persons of questionable character. He admits to sex indulgence since the age of twelve, moderate use of liquor, and an active interest in all forms of gambling. His life has been almost entirely regulated by his pursuit of pleasure.

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## DIAGNOSTIC SUMMARIES OF FINDINGS:

Personality estimates: "Pleasant, talkative, and cooperative.

Has been helped too much. Has bad habits and little ambition.

Considered an habitual prowler; long-known to Boston police.

As soon as released, generally goes back to old crime; appears to prefer to live in this manner than by honest toil."

Causative factors: "Lack of parental supervision in early life, had the opportunity to do as he pleased. Bad associates. Excessive hetero-sexual relationships. Early environment poor tenement district."

Summary of program: Relationships with his mother fine. The Family Welfare Department investigating claim that bank is dealing unfairly with his mother. James does not desire to learn a trade, he could, but there is doubt if he would ever use it. Has get-rich-quick ideas. Has considerable of the ego. Well-acquainted with questionable characters and shady places of so-called amusement. Has never really worked hard. (1)

## THE INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY GIVES US THE FOLLOWING

James receives regular visits and correspondence from his mother. There exists a mutual bond of affection. The Family welfare Department has cleared up mother's financial situation. James has worked as cement worker, mason's helper, and houseman. Work records excellent. "Leeps cleanest and neatest house within the wall." Has refused work in the kitchen, but has completed all correspondence courses in food and nutrition and attended lectures on baking. He was a member of the Glee Club. and took an active interest in dramatics. His leisure time is spent in weaving knotted belts and in bead work. Four months after transfer from State Prison, James received punishment for gambling. One year since punishment, he is completing his second term of Council membership and third term on council committees. He has received special mention for his fine attitude and constructive efforts in present council term. James is a regular attendant at the discussion group on Negro history, also at Christian Science and Theosophical services. "Decided change in attitude of cooperativeness and helpfulness; more quiet, very neat, and always ready to please."

I have had repeated contacts with James and have gained a fairly definite picture of his real criminality and the effect of the treatment he has received at Norfolk. He is a professional manufambler; has lived by his wits; and is definitely

<sup>(1)</sup> Program by House Officer, not by Diagnostic Division.

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affected by the philosophy of getting as much as he can with as little effort as possible. He is one of those individiuals destined to play the part of the actor - one who unconsciously demands a stage. Norfolk has provided this setting. He has been quite active there. "His attitudes have changed to unlimited cooperativeness and helpfulness", but under the surface his real philosophy of living remains about the same. His past life still unconsciously lures him. a-social philosophy, growing out of his pleasure-seeking impulses, (hedonism) and the tendency towards self-disply, (exhibitionism) is by now so completely integrated with the rest of his personality that any attempt at rehabilitation is a very difficult task. Any treatment plan should include conscious efforts to effect a "positive transference". It is doubtful, however, if any staff member at Norfolk will be able to effect such a transference. James has seen "through the mill" of correctional institutions, and unconsciously he refuses to become attached to any member of the regular personnel. Some outside person who has enough of the kind of glamour that James admires so that it will demand his respect; someone who has more of a social than a moral conscience - a strong personality whose influence and interests would be felt and recognized - might achieve it.

What is needed is re-education which will affect his whole system of values and his consequent thinking.

James doubtless will always demand a stage. Some vocation that would afford an opportunity for legitimate expression of this natural urge would be the most progressive single factor in his adjustment. Lack of education and the element of race minimize the possibility for such a realization.

On September 8, 1933, the date of expiration of his minimum sentence, James may be released from Norfolk. Through serious application to industry and good parole supervision, (both of which are doubtful) plus the contact and impression of some strong personality, James might adjust. Prognosis is doubtful.

Case #14

OFFENSE: Statutory rape. Sentence: Three to eight years. Fir st offense.

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JOHNS, age fifty-seven, was born in Florida. Both of his parents had a meager education, but were respectable and had an adequate income. They were kind, religious, and centered their interests in their household. Johns claims to have completed grammer school at the age of eighteen. He left school to go to work at the death of his father who was killed in the performance of his duties as a policeman. After his father's death. Johns was brought to Massachusetts by a lawyer and worked in his household for several years. He then worked as a waiter in a catering business for ten years; established a catering business of his own, which was successful for a while. Then, for about fifteen years he worked as a janitor and houseman for private families, banks, and hotels. Four years before his commitment, he bought a home and established a house-cleaning business which proved fairly successful. He was married in 1901, but for thirty years his wife has continued to work in another city as a domestic and has seen her husband only on week-ends, holidays, and at vacation seasons. He is recognized as a leader of the Negro population of his community: has fine contacts, is well spoken of, and is an active member in church and fraternal organizations. Though he entered a plea of guilty upon advice of the district attorney, he now vigorously protests his innocence. When he was first committed to State Prison test for syphilis gave positive findings.

#### DIAGNOSTIC SUMMARIES OF FINDINGS:

Personality estimates: "Jovial, pleasant, is an extrovert type. Has industrial stability, application, enterprise, and initiative."

Causative factors: "Possibility of cerebral deterioration caused by veneral disease .. Should be classified as a situational offender."

Immediate and future program: Treatment to be of a preventive nature to avoid possibility of anti-social habits or assocaites. Should be assigned position of trust and responsibility to help maintain satisfactory morale. Positive test for syphilis to be checked. No home problems. No vocational inclination; wants correspondence course in advertising and appreciation of music.

## THE INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY FIVES THE FOLLOWING:

Johns worked for one month as a janitor in the Administration Building, but was transferred to active construction, supposedly for medical reasons. Medical Department states, "No such medical recommendation was made. Transfer made because of favoritism." Work reports - excellent. Wasserman test given: results negative. Recently made janitor of stables. Doubt if he has cerebral deterioration. Treatment is being continued according to clans for cure. John's relationships with his wife are excellent. There is frequent correspondence and regular visits. Wife seems much interested in his welfare. Johns is a regular attendant at church service, the most active member in the discussion group of Negro history. He is very cooperative and is constantly busy in all his spare time.

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Johns' leisure time program for the present is as follows: Monday night, attends Negro history discussion group; Tuesday night attends class for the study of parliamentary law; Wednesday night goes to debating class; Thursday night is devoted to reading and organized study for coming debate; Friday night attends community entertainments. Week-ends are devoted to personal, domestic duties, church, and community activities, visiting and correspondence. (1)

As to causative factors: His continued separation from his wife over a thirty-year period is undoubtedly important, especially in view of his offense. Plans for release should include a program of such a nature that he and his wife will live together at all times, so that his marital life will be as normal as possible.

The treatment program for this man is most assuredly of a preventive nature. Life for him at Norfolk is as normal as it could possibly be in any environment stressing correctional values. He is extremely cooperative, has accepted his incarceration philosophically. In view of his early home relationships, his exceptionally fine contacts and associates, his social and industrial stability, prognosis is excellent.

#### Case #22

OFFENSE: -- Forgery. Sentence: - Three to five years.

HARPER, age forty, born in Pennsylvania, of respectable southern parents. Both parents are dead. The father's death occurred when subject was age eleven. His mother died the following year. Harper-lived with his sister for about six months, ran away from her home and has had no contact with his family since then. Lived for short periods in small towns in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Then, came to boston, where he has lived for a number of years.

Harper finished the fourth grade of a country grammar school in Pennsylvania. Left school at the death of his parents. He avoided falling into the hands of the law until he was thirty-two years old. Since that time, he has had two previous commitments for forgery. Was last released from Massachusetts Reformatory in 1927; present difficulty came in 1928. One month before present difficulty, he was married. Since this incarceration, wife has secured a divorce. There are no children. His industrial record

<sup>1.</sup> Not in Institutional history. Result of interviews with inmate and house officer.

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has been fairly stable - worked as blacksmith, boiler maker and dye worker. His recreational life has consisted of moderate use of liquor and sex indulgence since eighteen. Most of his associates have been persons of low reputation and questionable characters. Harper- was released from Norfolk at the expiration of two-thirds of his minimum sentence (parole date). Three months later he was recommitted; charge "Breaking & entering in the night time". To be released at the expiration of his maximum sentence.

# DIAGNOSTIC SUMMARIES OF FINDINGS:

Personality estimates: Talks freely. Has done pretty well considering he was thrown on his own resources since the age of twelve. Is not very bright appearing. No mental disease. A social problem".

Causative Factors: "Undirected adolescent period without father, mother, or even near relatives' guide."

Parole revocations: "Appears to have violated parole entirely from economic motives. Was working but one day a week. Found it difficult to make ends meet. Stole acetylene torch with the intention of selling".

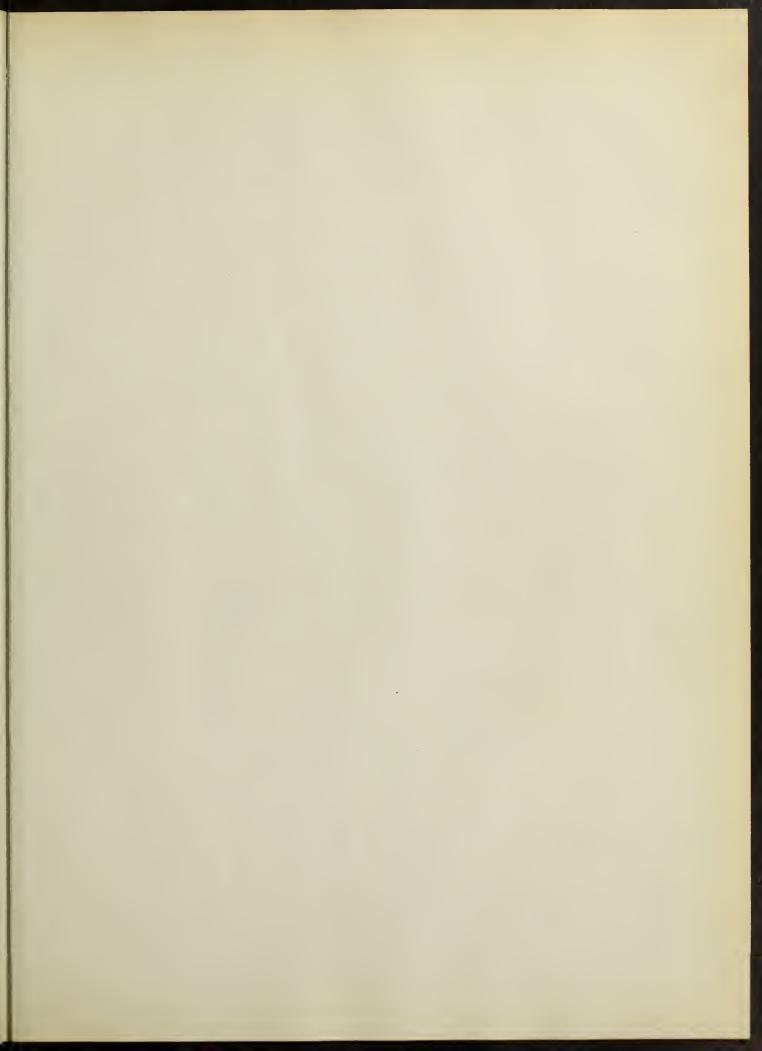
Immediate and Future program: Divorced wife. No interest on either side. No problem. To follow outside employment as blacksmith. Mild interest in 'Retail Selling', course to be obtained from University Extension. Wrought iron work his hobby -- design books to be secured from him. On release plans to go South with his sister and open a small blacksmith shop of his own.

# THE INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY GIVES US THE FOLLOWING:

Receives occasional visits from friends. Reluctant to give address of sister. Does not anther to know of his incarceration. Working in blacksmith shop. Work reports "Excellent worker, fast and intelligent". Spare time spent at blacksmith shop making wrought iron furnishings - lamps, candlesticks, flower stands, etc. Makes considerable money from sale of the articles. Though forty years old, an excellent baseball player. Liked by all, respected because of his vocational efficiency.

Harper attributes his delinquent career to the unconscious influences of his associates. Blames no one except himself and his lack of insight in meeting his own difficulties. Has committed no vicious crimes; difficulties arose out of complex social situations demanding serious thought and the analytical approach. Had no one to give him a guiding hand or sound advice. Whenever difficulties arose from lack of money he accepted the line of least resistence - forgery. Thus, his convictions and commitments. All of his difficulties indicate a lack of insight, and the inability to foresee consequences, eliminating the chance for logical

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planning and effectively handling his own problems. What is needed is an intelligent sponsor. Someone with the big brother attitude, a friendly adviser, to help him over difficulties when emergencies arise. There has been no mention of sponsorship in his case work program.

Harpers' avocational work at Norfolk deserves special mention. His wrought iron work is an outstanding achievement. His designs are all original and the workmanship excellent. Sales for this work are steadily on the increase. His work receives favorable comment from all persons who see it. He has been asked to become joint owner in a small blacksmith shop in a town near Norfolk. Besides the regular work of the trade, there would be the opportunity and time for specialization in his wrought iron articles. He is seriously considering this offer and possibly the patenting of some of his designs. This proposition would also eliminate frequent contact with his former associates of Boston. Wrought iron work is his abiding interest. Continued employment and the chance for work along this interest, plus an intelligent sponsor and possibilities for adjustment are fine. Prognosis is favorable.

#### Case #3

OFFENSE: -- Breaking & Entering with Intent to Steal. Sentence: two and a half to three and a half years.

LARRIER, age twenty-four, born in Massachusetts of Negro Indian parentage. The only child to live beyond infancy. Both parents bear questionable reputations. When four years old, Larrier's mother died. His father deserted the child, left him at their boarding house. Committed to State guardianship as "Neglected". Placed in more than six boarding homes before commitment to Lyman School as "A Delinquent", at the age of eleven. In almost all of these homes, he was insolent, disobedient, thievish, hot-tempered and persisted in habits of bed-wetting. However, at times he made a favorable impression. Felt inferior over race. Once cut off his hair hoping it would grow out straight as his mother's, instead of wooly and kinky. His behavior on parole from Lyman was consistent with his earlier history. Was moved frequently from home and work. Recommitted to Lyman three times.

At ninteen sent to Massachusetts Reformatory for burglarizing a neighbor's room, having had several previous minor arrests. Released after three years. No significant change in behavior patterns. The following year finding it difficult to secure work, resorted again to burglary. Thus his present incarceration. Despite his unsettled life, he has completed two years of junior high school work. Has never had a steady job; once involved in bootlegging. Larrier's father is believed to be living illicitly with a woman in Boston. Has had no contact with Larrier in recent years, and Larrier professes no interest in him at present.

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#### DIAGNOSTIC SUMMARIES OF FINDINGS:

Personality estimate: "From earliest times a disciplinary problem - extreme laziness and frequent complaining. As a youngster, refused to participate in activities with others. Has shown no vicious traits. No grudes against Police or Courts. Blames no one but himself. Great deal of energy and a desire to become proficient in mechanics, drawing and music."

Mental: "Neurological examination, negative. Seems to have lived a day-to-day existence; still does. Seems to have no neurotic tendencies. Classified as a 'Psychopathic Personality' I. Q. 101.

Causative Factors: "Family background and home situation totally undisciplined early and later life. Lack of normal family ties. General restlessness and feelings of inferiority, because of race, also long persistent enuretic habits. Has a varacious appetite which might have some deep-rooted physical cause."

Immediate and future program: Outstanding needs are self-discipline, social stabilization and industrial training. Stabilization and discipline to proceed along lines of own interest, intensive training in mechanics and music. Present philosophy of ethics should be replaced by a code in which self-reliance can be used in a more social way. Believe an intelligent sponsor to be practically the only hope. His future seems dismal. His one saving grace will be his interest in music.

## THE INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY GIVES US THE FOLLOWING:

Receives no correspondence or visits. "ive months worked as general laborer. "ork reports from "extremely lazy" to "Fair". Recently transferred to wood-working shop. Is receiving individual instruction, also group instruction in playing the violin. Is constantly and conscientiously practising on the violin. Reads on an average of eight books a month, all fiction and stories of adventure. Is very quiet and polite about the house, extremely cooperative.

(1) Since transfer to wood-working shop, work reports: "interest and attitudes excellent, looks very promising. Believe we are on the right track". On his own initiative has started making a violin in his spare moments in the shop. Is receiving individual and group instruction (orchestra) in playing the violin. Instructor's comment: "For an adult he has picked up the violin more easily than any individual I have ever seen - has fine possibilities (1).

Larrier gives the impression of an individual whose mind is filled with a vague consciousness of some unattainable superiority that he has missed because of his early family background and his consequent lack of opportunity. His total being presents a classic example of an "unwanted

1. Not in record - result of interview with foreman and instructor.

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child", unconsciously seeking affection, recognition and security. Normal responses to these urges, characteristic of the human mind, have been denied him since birth.

Any plan of treatment should include conscious efforts to supply these psychic needs, to redirect his assumed compensatory asocial behavior into individual and socially desirable modes of expression. The plan of treatment proposed at Norfolk admirably aims to meet satisfactorily these basic drives. Intensive training along lines of his own interests (wood-working and music) are the processes through which he is to achieve security and recognition. Already his personal relationships seem to indicate the development of a new point of view, the birth of new interest and enthusiasm in himself and his adjustment. Through the proposed system of sponsorship his third essential need hopes to be met. Some intelligent Negro, capable of understanding the whole situation and with a sufficiently attractive personality to have Larrier desirous of this friendship and congeniality, a person he shall learn to regard as a wise counselor, one who provides vivid contacts with reality, who points out healthy channels of energy and expression.

Larrier needs to fell that there is someone genuinely interested in him. He needs friendship and understanding The sum total of which may supplement for his lack of parental love. This program - giving to his heretofor lonely existence, friendship and affection; to his desire for security intensive vocational training; to his quest for recognition instruction and possibly a high degree of proficiency in music, makes his future look bright. Prognosis, favorable.

#### CASE #2

OFFENSE: Rape. Sentence: Two and a half years to Three years.

LASTMAN, age 44 comes of small landowning, illiterate parents of Bermuda. Both according to Eastman, respectable characters, good providers and very fond of their family. When twenty-six years old, Lastman came to the United States and settled in Boston. There are eight siblings, all living in Bermuda, except a brother living in Boston. Eastman's early life was uneventful, working and playing (without much outside contact) on his father's farm. Completed the equivalent of fourth grade grammar school. Left school at twelve and worked on father's farm until eighteen. The following six years, worked in various hotels in Bermuda s a domestic. In Boston ne has worked at several hotels and on steamships as waiter. For eight seasons worked as cook at a summer resort. "Conscientious, industrious and thorough".

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On year before entering the United States, Eastman married, a Bermudian. Three children were born to them. The wife is known to the M. S. P. C. C. who brought charges of "Neglect of Children" on account of lack of support of father. Case referred to Division of Child Guardianship. Two of the children were placed in foster homes under state care. The youngest left with the mother. They lived in New York. Wife consistently refused to consent to resume relationship with Eastman. Reports that she suffered continued abuse from him. Has the fear that he would do her bodily harm. "There are stories of him beating his wife and pouring boiling water on her when she refused to do as he told her." She is neat pleasant appearing, has great antipathy for husband, but much fondness for her children.

#### DIAGNOSTIC SUMMARIES OF FINDINGS:

Personality estimates: "Most respectful in his speech and manner, has a ready sense of wit. Seems to have a perpetual uncontrollable temper. Seems averagely honest. An exceptionally hard worker."

Causative factors: "Hastman does not seem to be guilty of rape, but rather of adultery and assault and battery (a different occasion). An unsatisfactory marital life has caused him to seek satisfaction in other ways. Has had a free and unrestrained sex life, no self-control. Admits he has gone around with whatever woman he could get."

Immediate and Future program: Man's personal problem is not that of curbing a sex impulse, but of curbing a hot temper. Suggest job placement in position that subjects him to frequent irritation and attempt to break it - eg. placement in kitchen. Acconciliation with wife not hopeful or advisable. Needs good sponsor. Further education, intermediate academic classes. On release plans to secure job as cook with former employer.

## THE INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY GIVES US THE FOLLOWING:

Eastman placed in kitchen, transferred to general laborer after five weeks to avoid difficulty with inmate helper. Two months later requested transfer to job as houseman - granted. After two months requested transfer to job as general laborer, difficulties with fellow inmates - granted. Nine months later transferred to kitchen as "meat-cutter". After three weeks again transferred to general laborer. Reasona: "Not suited for job, and man's desire for return to construction". Is at present working as general laborer, Work reports: "Excellent worker". Completed one year of intermediate academic work. "Attendance 90%, class work 90%, fine interest and progress". At present enrolled in academic and auto-repair classes. For eleven months has received individual music instructions (alto horn). Has joined the band. Appears very religious, regularly attends two church services. Gets great consolation from Bible reading. Served one term membership on construction committee. attendance at meetings 100%. Received letter from son, age 15. under State care, saying he was not receiving proper treatment in foster home. One month later, refused to obey orders fr m officer, threatened him with shovel. Acceived punishment, ten days in

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There has been a total disregard for proposed program of curbing of Eastman's temper. Continually changed from one job to another whenever conflicting circumstnaces arose. Present treatment plan has contributed little or nothing in meeting his greatest difficulty. There is no record of investigation into the circumstances of his children under State Guardianship. No record of sponsor secured or efforts in that direction.

Program as outlined by Diagnostic Division should be tried - job placement which subjects him to frequent irratation. If there was some person at Norfolk whom Eastman felt attached to and could talk over situations when difficulties of temper arose, it might prove good therapy. Attempts should be made to actively interest his former employer in our sponsorship plan and Eastman. There is a mutual interest between them. Perhaps he could exert a strong influence for good in helping Eastman to adjust.

Eastman appears to have great devotion for his children. Should be regularly and properly informed as to their circumstances and treatment. There is very probably a definite correlation between his recent emotional break and the letter received from his son. Eastman shall always need intelligent supervision - an interested sponsor seems imperative. In view of present circumstances, prognosis is doubtful.

#### CASE + 32

Sentence: Six to eight years. Has previous record and commitments.

ANDERSON, comes of a family of fifteen children, the only child for whom his mother had a doctor at birth. His father died at the age of forty-seven of "complications". Anderson's mother is now over eighty-five years old and quite feeble. She has a reputation of immorality and intemperance, her home was a resort for the lowest of people. There is a sister with the reputation of being a "drunken prostitute", living with his mother; all other siblings dead. Up to the age of five years, Anderson lived with his parents. At five he was placed under State Guardiansnip, because of the nature of his home, where he remained until he was nineteen. He was placed in six different foster homes. At the age of 18, he received a sentence to Massachusetts Reformatory for larceny, at the age of twenty-three, he was committed to the Reformatory for the same offense. At twenty-six, he served 10 months at the House of Correction for "Larceny". At twenty-nine, a jail sentence for forgery, and at thirty-one served two years in the House of Correction for Auto-violation. At the age of 33, he received the present

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sentence. In 1919, Anderson was married, his wife was wild and reckless "always with a gang around". They were divorced in 1930. The mother taking their child at that time 9 years old. She is reported to be married again. Anderson deliberately lies about his schooling. Probably completed six grades of grammar school. At intervals between incarcerations, he has worked as a chauffeur, truck driver, odd jobs about the house, farm hand and general laborer. Never kept one job long at a time. His recreational life has consisted of petty gambling, drinking, reading, movies and sex indulgence since eighteen. Anderson claims to have but few scattered friends. His delinquent exploits were always committed alone.

#### DIAGNOSTIC SUMMARIES OF FINDINGS:

Personality estimates: "Lacks moral stamina, is without responsibility. Frank and open in his appearances. Unthoughtful in many of his statements, facts slighty distorted."

Mental: "Intelligence quotient - 90. Judgment concerning his own situations only weak point. Has no insight into his own lack of control. Does not appreciate the fact that he is not up to normal in his emotions, impulses and passions. "Comewhat psychopathic".

Causative factors: "Family history (Psychopathic traites). Poor early environment. The development of vicious sex tendencies and habits of an asocial nature while in state homes."

Immediate and Future program: The establishment of good contacts with former employer and minister of home town. Vocational training along lines of his interests, auto mechanics, literary guidance in reading, leisure time interest in music to be followed up with instruction. "On release without the strongest of ties and of motives there is only the barest possibilities that he will ever become an asset to society".

## THE INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY GIVES US THE FOLLOWING:

Anderson was given a truck drivers job which he kept but one week. Removed because "he did as he pleased and not as he was told." "Started course in auto mechanics, but gave it up when drivers job was taken from him. Bince the, he has worked in both maintenance and construction crews (general laborer). Work reports first, at best "fair". Now they read, "Very good worker, cooperative and cultivating a sense of humor." Anderson has attempted to resume relationships with his aged mother and sister. Has not had cooperation of sister in fostering these relationships. He received little mail and no visits. For a long time after transfer to Norfolk, anderson assumed a "know it all attitude". Was sullen and a trouble maker. Was very unpopular with his fellows. It seemed as if he just could not get along with others. Within the last few months, there has been a decided change in his attitudes. Much more pleasant congenial and conversant. Is seriously trying to affect normal realtionships with his fellows. Their attitudes have been of mutual

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cooperation. Anderson attends regularly three church services, When asked why, he replied "I am trying to do better. If church will help anyone, I am hoping it will help me." He often asks his house officer if he is making any improvement in his attitudes and relationships. Anderson was a member of the Glee Club. Also received instruction in drum playing, both of which he dropped for officer porter work in order to earn a little money. His latter job was taken from him because of "untrustworthiness" concerning reports about officers."

On May 20, 1933, Anderson shall very probably be released, the expiration of his minimum sentence. To date there is no record of investigation into his home situation (his mother and sister). No contact with possibly interested persons of his home town as suggested by program, No record or mention of sponsorship. Anderson has no contact with persons who might be interested in him on release, little possibilities of employment, and no arrangements for a home. He is at present quite disturbed over these latter conditions. Has made the remark that "If I am out of a job, I am not going to starve." The diagnostic analysis made shortly after Anderson came to Norfolk states "without the strongest of ties and of motives, there is only the barest possibility that he will ever become an asset to society."

The man's recent statement in regard to starving lends weight to the above quotation. Though there has been a significant change in man's attitudes, though he has improved in his ability to respond and get along with others, though he has learned the habits of work and industry, in view of his lack of normal social ties, and his slight possibilities for employment, there is serious doubt of his adjustment on release. Trognosis is doubtful.

#### CASE #8

OFFENSE: -- Carnal Abuse. Sentence: - Five to seven years.

McNEIL, age fifty-seven, born in South Carolina of illiterate parents the youngest of eight children. Little is known of his family background. He reports several siblings, living in different sections of the "outh. When four years old, he lost both parents. Was left to the care of an older sister. When seven years old, ran away to avoid beatings and has since taken care of himself. Without benefit of education he has leamed to read and write.

since the age of seven, McNeil has been a migratory worker without influence of home environment, supervision or discipline. At seventeen he married. For fourteen years had a satisfactory domestic life. His wife died leaving three children. At thirty-two a second

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marriage. Shipped to sea when he found wife incompatible. Divorced on ground of "Desertion". At thirty-five, a third marriage. Wife died after three years, leaving one child by this union. At forty married again, only to find his wife unfaithful and to obtain a divorce. Inducted in the United States army at forty-one. Discharged by reason of demobilization without seeing service at the front. Coming to Boston in 1921, so on was in difficulty with police. In 1922, age forty-six sentenced to State Prison for robbery. Paroled after three and a half years. Deaving state (with permission) worked as seaman and professional gambler. Lived a rather unstable and irregular life.

In 1930, age fifty-three, returned to Boston. Married his fifth wife, a divorcee. At present living in Boston with her mother. She is not sure that she shall have further connections with McNeil. Irregular employment forced him to seek city aid - granted. Present difficulty arose eight months after last arrival in Boston. McNeil claims his children are all in the South. Refuses to return to live with them, because of treatment accorded Negroes in South. Blames all of his difficulties on the animosity of Boston police.

#### DIAGNOSTIC SUMMARIES OF FINDINGS:

Personality estimates: "Tendency to self-sympathy and vengeful broodings. Attitude of futility. Morbidity and sex tendencies. Persecutory idealization - possibly beginning of a psychosis. One moment he hopes he will die; the next wants to live in order to get revenge of Boston police."

Mental: "Shows no symptoms of mental deterioration -- False perception or other pathological thought processes. Alert, but very low intelligence. I. Q. 64."

Causative factors: "No home environment, supervision, education or guidance. Lowest social standards. Irregular employment. Both vocationally and socially unstable. Sub-normal mentality, possibly psychopathic defect".

Immediate and Future program: Investigation of marital relationships (fifth wife). Further insight into social standards. Elementary education. Participation in wholesome group and avocational pursuits. Tendency to indulge self-sympathy and vengeful brooding should be counteracted. Health conditions fair. Will require frequent medical examination.

## THE INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY GIVES US THE FOLLOWING:

Working as general laborer. Work reports: "Excellent worker, has good influence on other workers". Writes and receives no letters or visitors. Four months after transfer to Norfolk (through efforts of Family Welfare Department) his wife visited him. Only contact with outside since present commitment. Regularly and faithfully attends Protestant services. Appears

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to get some consolation from religious activities. Attends Negro history discussion group. Relationships with other inmates excellent. Is liked by all of them. Outwardly appears cheerful and happy-go-lucky. Inwardly frequently despondent. Is convinced of his own innocence. Aemarks that he will never get any place, because of his race. Wishes on release to go to Africa. McNeil has recently had one serious emotional break growing out of the introduction of new classification program here.

McNeil is the victim of terrific race complexes. Has had many experiences growing out of race which have had tremendous psychological affects upon him. Is obsessed with the idea of race persecution and individual injustice. On release would like to become a second Marcus Garvey and attempt to establish a settlement, colony or nation for Negroes, only. There appears to be a mutual interest between McNeil and his wife. His wife's daughter has great antipathy for him. Tells her mother (his wife) if she has any further contact with subject, she shall lose her home and support. Wife is ill. Is dependent upon daughter for sustenance and maintenance. (1)

Definite attempts should be made to straighten up these relationships. McNeil worries continually over present state of affairs. Prolonged worry and consequent morbidness only aggravates the problem in view of his philosophy of persecution and injustice. There is no record of contact with his family for past seven months.

Because of approaching senility and sub-normal intelligence, there are slight possibilities of changing McNeil's personality patterns, and fixated attitudes. There is little any institution can do for such an individual except make his environment and relationships as simple and as normal as possible. I have conscienciously attempted to give him a normal point of view regarding race relationships. An interested intelligent Negro sponsor seems the most logical therapeutic approach. He shall always need the strictest sort of supervision. Shall be sixty years old when eligible for parole. If family situation is adjusted, and sponsorship plan materiablizes with intelligent supervision, prognosis is hopeful.

#### CASE #15

OFFLNSE: manslaughter. Sentence, eight to ten years.

PORTER, aged twenty-three is striking and intelligent looking, red faced, but athletic and neat in appearance; the illegitimate child of a white mother and a colored father. His mother, of Canadian birth, came to New England with her parents when quite young, She

(1) Not in records: result of repeated interviews.

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completed three grades of grammar school, was employed as a mill worker, and later as a domestic. There is no information concerning his father except that he was employed in a Massachusetts hotel. His mother made no effort to contact father after her confinement.

Porter lived with his mother for two months, was placed in a home (light Negro family) until he was two years old. He lived with his grandmother, then, until he was nine years old. At this age, he was placed in a Catholic institution. He lived there for another five years - ran away once, but was returned. Shortly after running away, his mother could no longer pay the home for his maintenance. The case was finally referred to the Children's Aid Society, and they placed him in a Negro boarding home in order to adjust him to social conditions he should accept. Adjustment difficult. Placed in another home (Negro) from which he ran away. He was located in Ohio, returned to Massachusetts and placed in a white home.

In 1924, after he was returned from Ohio, the case was referred to the Judge Baker Foundation. Previous to this, he apparently had not known who his mother was nor whether she was living; he had not been told, either, until late in his childhood that his father was colored. "Dr. Healy reported that the boy had a very serious mental conflict concerning his race and parentage. He was also disturbed because he had not done well in school." In 1925, over a three month's period, Porter was placed in three different boarding homes. In August of the same year, a farm home was found for him. This home was the scene of the difficulty leading to his commitment to the Massachusetts Reformatory at sixteen.

Porter started school when he was living with his maternal grand-mother. "Poor results". At Catholic Home school results unsatisfactory - boy's reason: "Just couldn't seem to learn things out of books". He completed the sixth grade while in boarding homes. Results fair until he came under "unsympathetic teachers." Finished the eighth grade at Massachusetts Reformatory. His associates have always been white, usually of a rather poor sort. Has had no time at regular work. At Massachusetts Reformatory worked in the kitchen, tailor shop, and on a loom in the mill. Intensely interested in sports.

Personality summary of Children's Aid Society records: "Has a strong desire to get away from things that do not please him. Occasionally stubborn, but usually good-natured and happy. Truthful and usually obedient. Makes friends easily."

DIAGNOSTIC SUMMARIES OF FINDINGS

Personality estimates: "Bothered considerably about his home

Personality estimates: "Bothered considerably about his home situation. Somewhat ashamed of his background and lack of educational opportunities....Woodworth's scale of neuroticism presents picture of neurotic, shifting interests, moodiness,

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easily rattled, hard to sustain attention or work, feelings of inferiority."

Mental: "Of low normal intelligence. I. Q. 91 Unusually good vocabulary considering his erratic schooling and home life. Given educational and vocational opportunities subject should go far".

Causative factors: Broken home, total lack of normal family background and relationships. Terrific complexes over race and parentage. Complex because of poor school progress. Feelings of restlessness and inferiority.

Immediate and future program: The important job here is to give him a feeling of self-respect based on educational and vocational achievements. Not interested in academic work, but would like vocational trade course ....very necessary that sponsor be obtained .... Subject needs close personal attention.

#### THE INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY GIVES THE FOLLOWING:

Mother has had no contact with Porter since his commitment to Massachusetts reformatory. Feels lack of home and family tremendously. Sponsor secured. There seems to be a mutual interest between him and his sponsor. Porter seems interested in radio work. Would like to follow this work on release. Correspondence course or wireless and radio work arranged by sponsor. Porter completed a few lessons. House officer reports "Sponsor seems interested but not too active. Needs a sponsor who has lots of time to keep in constant touch with man after release".

For nine months Porter worked as a mason's helper. Work reports: "Good worker, but an institutionalized boy; means well but nervous and unstable." Recently transferred to utility crew (general labor) because of difficulty with civilian foreman at work. Has benefitted some from his work as mason's helper, but not enough to be able to follow this work on release.

Porter is not interested in religious or church affairs. His stay at Catholic home has prejudiced him against such influences. Feels that they put too much emphasis on religious instruction at the expense of purely academic or vocational training. He is quite active in all sports. Occasionally reads books of fiction. His relationships with his fellows are excellent.

The family Welfare Department reports that subject's mother is married and has a white family. She does not wish to have anything to do with Porter. "In spite of his handicaps, he is an intelligent alert, athletic individual who earnestly desires to make good."

Through the efforts of Porter's House Officer, Mr. Weiss, (Research Case Worker), and myself, since December, 1932, there has een the application of intensive social case work to this man's problems. Serious attempts have been made to get at the root of subject's difficulties and to

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formulate for him a scientific treatment plan. The following is a summary of important findings and results as recorded by Mr. Weiss in special reports for the institutional history:

As has been mentioned in the summary of the Children's Aid Society, one of the most potent causative factors in this situation was porter's mental conflict over race, aggravated by the fact that he was told so late in his childhood of his Negro parentage. This problem has been the source of prolonged mental anguish. (Through repeated interviews with Porter, I have attempted to give him a rational concept of the race situation. The finer aspects of Megro life and culture have been discussed with him at length and in detail. Conscious efforts have been made to have him see that his possession of Negro blood was not the curse that his morbid brooding had lead him to believe. He is slowly accepting a philosophical point-of-view. His conflict, though not completely dissolved, is surely minimized, and his thoughts are unconsciously drifting away from race to the other aspects of his adjustment after release.)

When about twelve years old. Porter was placed in a very cultured white home. Though he was impressed by it refinement, he felt out of place. As a result of this experience plus the contact with an older inmate while at the Reformatory, who started him in reading the finer types of literature, he has become dissatisfied with his apparently resigned fate as an "under-dog". He has a strong desire for the contact with and an appreciation of life's finer values. This brought up the question of education. He realizes that he must have at least a high school education if he is to satisfy his desires for better things. Possibilities of attendance at night school on release were proposed to him. A plan of private instruction from "student assistants" was devised in order to supplement his latter years of "institutional education". The date of his very probable release is so near, and his mind is so concerned with job and home possibilities, plus the additional factor of fear as to what his fellows will think of his receiving special instruction, that this plan has not resulted in very positive achievements.

An additional source of conflict has grown out of his long period of imprisonment and his lack of normal relationships. Feels that he has been in prison so long that there will always exist a kind of invincible wall between himself and other persons. Mr. Weiss has attempted to give to him the theory of magnetism in affairs of human relationships. If he goes out and spontaneously gives the best he has to others, his fear will unconsciously be dissolved, his responses from others will likewise be spontaneous and natrually stimulating.

Porter has learned to do his own thinking without letting the world around him know very much about it. He has lost so much contact with the outside world that he has no

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comparison for his thinking. The efforts of Mr. Weiss in this connection were an attempt to give Porter a sense of proportion about what he is to meet on the outside in terms of other people's reactions to his past.

The Family Welfare Department and other interested staff members are making serious efforts to locate a home for Porter - a home in which there is a measure of culture and refinement, where he will not be considered as a "boarder", but accepted as one of the family, with a complete understanding of his social history and his apparent but minimized conflicts. Both home and job possibilities are quite favorable. I shall make very definite attempts to afford him the opportunities for contact and free association with the better types of the Negro population. With strict but not direct supervision and intelligent understanding, prognosis is hopeful.

#### CASE # 11

OFFENSE: Assault with intent to rob - armed. Sentence: Two and a half to five years.

ROBERTS, is twenty-two, small and thin, with a very pleasing manner. His parents were fairly intelligent and had a grammar school education. They separated shortly after his birth, and his mother died when he was two years old. His father remarried but was divorced a few years later. Roberts has lived with his grandparents who feel more responsible for him than his father does. He has four uncles and two aunts, all respectable and honest persons. One uncle is a concert artist, a singer.

Roberts finished three years of high school, majoring in automechanics. "Cooperative and interested in his studies." Left school at eighteen to go to work. Has held but two jobs since, elevator operator and auto-mechanic's helper. Found his recreation in movies and dancing; indulged in all forms of gambling and promiscuous sex relationships.

Delinquent career began when he was thirteen, (turning in a false fire alarm). At nineteen, he was put on probation for one year for carrying a pistol. At twenty, he was given his first sentence, a year in the House of Correction for violating the compulsory automobile insurance law. At twenty-one he received another year of probation for larceny of an automobile. Later in the same year, he was given the present state prison sentence.

#### DIAGNOSTIC SUMMARIES OF FINDINGS:

Personality estimate: "No evidence of neurotic tendencies, interests centered on social and economic values at the expense of aesthetic

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and political. Young, cooperative, non-vicious. Examinations do not reveal any personality disorders which would closely relate to subject's criminality".

Mental: "Of low normal intelligence, I. Q. 93. Motor coordination highly developed...good adjustment can probably be made in some trade demanding manual manipulation."

Causative factors: As given by grandparents: "Bad companions and unemployment." None given in diagnostic analysis.

Immediate and Future program: Industrial training and cultivation of useful leisure habits. Is not decided as to what he wishes to do. Task of house officer to talk to him and make him make up his mind. He is young, immature....Has only eighteen months to do, and that is not a very long time to prepare for any trade.

#### SUMMARY OF INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY

No home problem. Duccessful operation for hernia. Present health fine. Still undecided as to work. Taking a course in bookkeeping and typewriting. Working in utility crew with pick and shovel. Work reports "fair". Regularly attends Protestant services and Negro History Discussion Group. Leisure time spent in study, reading and playing chess. Has received one official warning, (disciplinary report) for refusal to go out to work.

Roberts, though twenty-two, looks eighteen. His early life lacked correct disciplinary influences in spite of normal family background. He was allowed to do as he pleased, had most of the things he wanted, and grewup irresponsible, thoughtless, with no apparent need for insight into his own problems. His home with his grandparents, though friendly and congenial, doubtless did not afford the exciting outlets needed by a growing child. He found his pleasure out of the home with a group of persons less serious and for the most part older than himself. His commitment to the House of Correction made him ashamed to return to school, so he went to work instead of finishing his schooling. He spent his money just as he pleased, bought a car, and constantly grew more fixed in the habits of riotous living and reckless excitement characteristic of his crowd. After a while, he was unemployed. Money was necessary to continue the pace set by his social group. He felt ashamed to ask his family for it. so he resorted to robbery. (1) Thus his present incarceration.

Roberts' minimum sentence expires on December 15, 1933. He will doubtless be released on this date. His time spent at

1. Not in record. Result of repeated interviews.

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Norfolk has been too short for intensive vocational training. especially in view of his indecision about the type of work he wants to do. However, his experiences here may prove very vital in helping him to readjust on release. I have had repeated contacts with Roberts and have attempted to stimulate him to serious thinking about his future. Because of his youth, his normal intelligence ratings, his nonvicious disposition, his interested family, and especially the interest of one of his aunts, he has agreed to finish his high school work on release and very probably continue his study at some trade or mechanical school. His aunt is quite in accord with the idea and will cooperate in every way possible toward this realization. Roberts feels truly that he should and will make this new beginning in order to prove his worth to himself and to his family. He has had the time and opportunity here at Norfolk. (unconscious influences) and the encouragement to think through seriously his future life plan. He is more mature, cooperative, keenly interested, and capable in his new plans for readjustment - the prognosis is hopeful.

#### JASE #1

OFFENSE: Breaking, Entering & Larceny. Sentence: Six to eight years.

MITCHELL, age thirty, a cheerful, ever smiling individual who has never taken life seriously. He comes of superior parentage, intelligent, honest and with a very human interest in their children. There are three other siblings; all honest and hard working, employed in unskilled trades.

Mitchell's early life was uneventful, however, he started betty thieving at a very early age. Most of his associates were Irish boys of his own age. He has always enjoyed out-door games and spent most of his time out of the house.

He completed the eighth grade of the public grammar school. Scholarship poor and attendance worse. At the age of sixteen he landed in a training school for boys as an habitual truant. Since this commitment, most of his time has been spent in 'correctional institutions". At eighteen, he was committed to Massachusetts reformatory for larceny. At twenty, his second commitment to the Reformatory for breaking and entering. At twenty-three, his third commitment to the same institution for larceny. At twenty-five he received the present State 'rison sentence.

Apart from the time spent in Massachusetts Reformatory he has held three jobs - the longest steady employment was a mason's nelper for six months. One of his employers gives a very favorable report as to the quality of his work and his trustworthiness. Mitchell's sex life has been free and unrestrained. His parents never

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saw any of the girls with whom he went around and never knew anything about them. It appears that he had no particular attachment for any one girl. He has not suffered from any venereal disease.

#### DIAGNOSTIC SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:

Personality estimate: "Appears to have never taken life seriously, but seems now to have come to the point where he realizes he should take himself in hand. Seems honest and frank. Does not excuse himself, neither is the self-pitying type. Fas shown considerable fondness for his parents."

Tental: "Is of normal intelligence. I. Q. 100. His reactions, however, are rather slow. Appears to be a plodding type. Able to do good accurate work and to reason well if no time limit is placed on his acitivites ... Allport Value scale: exceptionally normal - his interests spread out over the several value fields, rather than being bunched into one or two. No evidence of neuroticism. Seems emotionally stable, quiet and well balanced.(1)

Causative factors: Poor associates seem to have been largely the root of this man's getting into so much difficulty... Incarceration has presumably been just what this man needed. It might be sufficient to teach him a lesson.

Immediate and Future program: Immediate attention to very acute financial home problem. Mother and father both unemployed. To follow mason's trade as helper. Reenly interested in music; instruction and courses in harmony and counterpoint to be arranged. Academic work of high school standard is advised. Interest in out-door recreation to be encouraged."

### THE INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY GIVES THE FOLLOWING:

Mitchell was transferred to mason's crew. Reason - to follow program. After a few months he was transferred to light duty. Reason - accident causing a fracture of the leg. For twelve months he worked as houseman and janitor (light duty). Work reports, excellent. Transferred to mason's crew. Reason - institutional need. Vork reports: "A good mason. Application good, learning and willing to learn. Very dependable and works best when working alone".

Financial home problem remedied also visits received from his mother and father. Both of these arrangements constructive efforts of the Family Welfare Department. Mitchell was much relieved and very grateful.

1. Test Allport Value Scale given 1/3/33, shortly before inmate was released from Norfolk.

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He is intensely interested in music. Has completed a correspondence course in harmony, directed class in banjo playing, manager of Golony orchestra, a member of both orchestra and band. Academic education has been secondary to his interest in music. However, he has studied several books on masonry and blue print reading. Is active in all out-door recreation, especially in basket ball and baseball.

Mitchell is rated as one of the Colony's outstanding men. Seems to have but two interests - a desire for profiency in music and the desire for approval of his conduct and work here. His fondness for his mother is an admirable trait. Is much interested in his family and their welfare.

Mitchell has always preferred to remain alone. His aloofness becoming more marked as the date of his release draws near. Impresses one as though he has begun to take himself and his adjustment seriously. Is keanly interested in his future life plans. Music seems to be his fetish and sole ambition. Plans to secure work in jazz orchestra on release.

Mitchell thinks that there is no single factor that he can contribute his past to except his desire to do it, because he wanted to. "He traces his delinquent exploits back to his early years of school life - stealing fruit, etc. from neighborhood stores in company with other fellows. At an early age he was addicted to "Gang" influences", Irish boys of his own age. He had little contact with the Negro boys of his neighborhood, he remarks that they were all church and Sunday-school members, in short "nice little boys".

All of his life he has been a sort of adventerous spirit. When a very young child he built himself a canvas tent in the yard of his nome. He spent many nights in this tent alone. The darkness seemed to fascinate him as he would lie there content with stories of his imagination. He was filled with energy. It pained him to have to be quiet or still during the day. He found his pleasure out-of-doors. Atheletics attracted him, for here he could find release for his abundance of energy. He seemed to have had an unconscious lure for anything that looked interesting, anything that suggested the spirit of adventure. The question of right or wrong never entered his consciousness - he was, as it were, searching for something - that something he knew not what.

Mitchell admits that he never took his crime seriously until his last commitment to Massachusetts Reformatory. Before then he had decided that a life of crime wasn't so bad after all it was exciting and if he were caught, after a few years he ment and the control of the control 6 · TO -- 111 test of program to the street of the street of c 

would be out again. When last released from the Reformatory at the age of twenty-three he realized in part the seriousness of his life of crime, but there was still this subtle lure and he started his search again only to receive his first, the present, State Prison sentence.

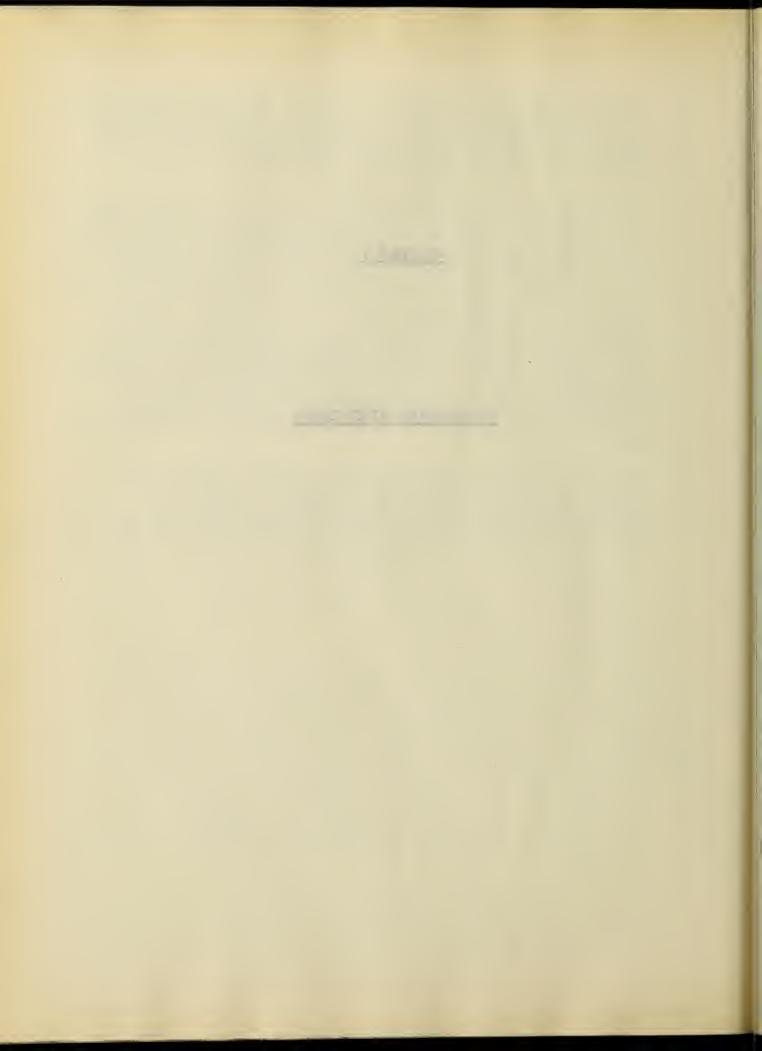
As Mitchell talked slowly, meditatingly and deliberately about his early life, always there was evident, this hidden urge for adventure, this pull toward excitement, this search for something he apparently could not find. He has remarked that just as he decided that he would lead a life of crime, so had he decided that he was finished with it. This was his way of saying that that for which he had been searching had in part, if not wholly, been found. Music has been rightly described as his "fetish". It is his captivating interest. Norfolk has afforded the atmosphere for the development of this latent ability. He has received instruction, encouragement and the time to study. Several members of the regular peronnel have shown a special interest in him and his development. Their encouragement has been an important factor in stimulating his desire for proficiency and achievement.

With an interested and intelligent family, his emotional stability and his exceptionally normal attitudes, plus this intense interest and recognized ability in music, if employment, preferably in a jazz orchestra is found for him - with intelligent supervision - prognosis is favorable.

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# CHAPTER V

CONCLUDING STATEMENTS



#### CONCLUDING STAPEJENTS

It is too often assumed that if Negroes are given a comparatively normal and unrestrained social environment, their responses are along the lines of least resistance, and almost complete indifference to ideas or suggestions for their individual improvement or social betterment. The findings of this study give very illuminating evidence as to the truth or falsity of this assumed notion.

Of the forty inmates studied, thirty (30) of them at different times since their transfer to Norfolk have been enrolled in some definite educational course. Fifteen (15) of these courses have been academic and fifteen (15) have been vocational classes. An analyses of school achievements (academic) before commitment shows that five (5) of the total number of inmates studied were illiterate. All of the men in this group have received elementary instructions since their transfer to Norfolk. They are no longer illiterate or their illiteracy is in the process of reduction by continued instruction.

When committed to State Prison, thirty (30) of the men studied had no definite vocational following. The other ten (10) had definite vocations and seven (7) of these men were cooks.

Undoubtedly, one of the most potent factors in the causation of crime among Negroes has its roots in the roblem of economic insufficiency of work, of jobs. "The per capita income for Negroes for 1930 was \$215.00 as contrasted with

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\$3,000 for the average American" (1) The ramifications of this job situation directly and indirectly exerts a tremendous influence over the entire social structure of Negro life. The problem of economic insufficiency does not imply that abject poverty is one of the most potent factors in the causation of crime: the emphasis is to be placed on the lack of economic sufficiency as it operates to keep both parents employed out of the home, leaving children without discipline or supervision. "In 1930, of all the Megro women, gainfully employed, 38.9% of them were working for wages outside the home. Of white women only 20.5% were thus earning a living in 1930"(2). Continuing the analogy, economic insufficiency makes it imperative that hegroes live in the poorest tenement districts, under the influences of the lowest associates and cultural opportunities. There is little or no time for leisure, for a recognition of an appreciation of life's finer values. Constant feelings of insecurity, arxiety and emotional stress, all by-products of economic insufficiency, are circumstances indirectly operating as contributory factors in the production of crime among Negroes.

Most Negro wage earners fall within the class of unskilled workers - the ones that are the first and hardest to be struck whenever there is a crisis or ever a downward trend in the industrial order. With the industrial system becoming more and more mechanized and the need for unskilled labor

<sup>1.</sup> The Crisis - March 1933 p. 59

<sup>2.</sup> The Crisis - April 1933 p. 79

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becoming more and more minimized, definite vocational training for prisoners and especially for Negro prisoners is certainly an element of treatment that is deserving of special consideration. (Vocational placements and training have been listed and discussed as one of the destinctive features of the "Norfork Plan").

. With ten (10) of these men studied having definite vocations when entering prison, and in all but one instance they are doing the same kind of work here, and another (15) have been enrolled or at present are enrolled in some vocational class; all other things being equal, twenty-five (25) of these men as contrasted with ten (10) shall on release be at least potentially more capable of economic sufficiency and family or individual support.

Continuing the analyses of constructive efforts of the inmates studied, in the comparatively unrestricted community life of Norfolk, twenty-nine (29) of them have shown definite constructive avocational interest. Thirty (30) of these men have shown special interest in learning to play some musical instrument. Other avocational interest include the making of exceptionally fine articles of wrought iron, weaving belts, bags, etc., from cord; hand made jewelry, beads, bracelets, watch chains and forbes; inlaid work and the making of a violin. All of these avocational interest indicate a desire for expression through the power of art. Art and the feeling for beauty have power to furnish a guiding line to life. Much of the subject matter of music is based on suffering and conflict, the very

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life themes which the prisoner knows best, and especially true of the Negro prisoner. This feeling for beauty showing itself in handmade articles of artistic merit, plus the almost natural interest and ability in music, seems to indicate a fertile field (as constructive aids) in the treatment of the Negro prisoner.

"Are we not to regard as therapy every detail of treatment which stimulates the natural tendencies toward cure and intensifies and modifies the physiological and psychological functions of the individual to such an extent that his feeling tone improves and concentration and a more wholesome display of energy takes the place of listlessness? Any detail of treatment that does this provided it is not regarded as self-sufficient. but as an assistance to the natural curative factors, may justly be called therapy." (1) The moral and mental therapeutic values of music and art lie in their gift for turning the repressed emotions from the unfriendly, sullen and resistive mental attitudes toward the friendly, willing and assistive frame of mind. Of the twenty (20) inmates showing definite interest in learning to play some musical instrument, four (4) of these have already demonstrated enough ability to indicate promise for definite achievements and a musical career. Through encouragement and musical instruction, it may not be possible to make finished musicians out of all these men of musical interest, however, there is the opportunity to create and foster normal and wholesome emotional attitudes which are pre-requisites for the more conscious and

<sup>1.</sup> Van DeWall - The Utilization of Music In Prison & Mental Hospitals - p. 10

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direct progressive programs of treatment in the processes of reducing individual tendencies toward crime.

Under the supervision of the Community Service
Department, I have for nine months conducted a weekly discussion
group on 'Events of Negro History'. There were up until the
first of April (the beginning of rehearsels for the proposed
ministrel show) between twenty and twenty-five inmates, who
meet with me each Monday night to discuss almost every phase
of Negro life at length and in detail. Ther than attempting
to give them a rational concept of race relationships and
to acquaint them with the achievements and the finer aspects
of Negro life, I have consciously attempted to analyze the inner
attitudes of these men regarding their particular problems of
racial adjustment. Through interviews and friendly conversations
I have attempted to discover these attitudes of the men who have
not frequented our discussion groups.

Negro prisoners are the victims of a dual concept of prison neurosis. On the one hand, they have in common with their fellow prisoners of the white race the feeling of imjustice growing out of their imprisonment. On the other hand, they have an additional feeling of persecution growing out of the factor of race. In all but four of the cases studied, there was evidence of a subtle hopelessness arising from unconscious feelings of inferiority, an almost natural result of the influences of their social history.

Of all the men studied only five (5) felt that there was at Norfolk a marked degree of racial prejudice as shown in outward behavior. The remaining thirty-five (35) men felt that there was at Norfolk a much smaller degree of racial prejudice than is met in the outside community including such states as Massachusetts and New York.

Though the vast majority of the immate studied have no particular problem of race and individual adjustment at Norfolk, there is always present in the minds of these men, a doubt, a skepticism, the feeling "that if I get a bad break, I am not to be surprised. I am a Negro". From such a rationalization, it is simple to accept a philosophy of hopelessness leading to indifference to self-improvement. The contact and atmosphere at Norfolk minimizes the opportunities for the further development of this fatalistic philosophy. The opinions of 87.5% of the men studied and the analyses of their constructive efforts toward individual improvement is evidence as to the validity of this assertion.

An appreciation of this dual concept of injustice may be used very effectively in the processes of reducing criminality among Negro prisoners. Since this concept has its roots in feelings of inferiority, it may lead to very positive achievements through compensation, or better, over-compensation along constructive lines of behavior. One of the strongest appeals for definite achievements can be made on the basis of race. (On April 1st, there was a Negro inmate, a member of the debating team scheduled to take an active part in a coming

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debate, then not more than two weeks off; who felt discouraged and had decided to drop out of the club and likewise the coming debate. I spent one half hour with him the following night. convincing him that he had to go through with the affair; that because he was a Negro lots of people would expect just the sort of action he was contemplating, and he owed it to himself and his racial group to disappoint those persons who were expecting him to fall down. The debate was held on Aoril 12th. This inmate is rated as having presented the finest argument of the evening and received the highest single score of any man debating). This appeal to be most effective should come from some other Negro whom the prisoner knows is capable of feeling and understanding clearly his own situation. In this connection the program of sponsorship may be used to a big advantage. Except in a few isolate cases, it seems safe to assume that there should be Negro sponsors, for Negro prisoners. Most of these inmates have very low cultural backgrounds. The finer aspects of Negro life are but little known to them. Too many of them have never had any conscious pulls toward decent social living. Contact with achieving Negro sponsors could admirably serve to bridge this gap, at the same time more directly stimulating within them the desire for individual improvement and more wholesome social living.

Other elements of treatment made possible by the comparatively normal community life of Norfolk often referred to as unconscious influences, deserves mention here. Included

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in this phrase, unconscious influences, are such elements of treatment as normal, friendly, but not familiar contacts of inmates and staff. There is something about these relationships that definitely minimizes the "con-screw" attitudes and substitutes for these, feelings of mutual respect based upon the recognition of prisoners as individuals, as dynamic personalities, capable of feeling and thought.

The definite "tie-ups" of members of the regular personnel and individual inmates is one of the most constructive aids in treatment operating at Norfolk. In seven (7) of the fifteen (15) case summaries presented in this study, this special relationship of inmate and staff has been among the most progressive single factor toward possibilities for adjustment on release.

Within the limits of this study, there has not been found any marked differences between the basic personality make-up of the Negro and the white prisoners. The same social and psychological factors that have entered into the crime causation of the one, have been operative in the other, with limitations and varying degrees of intensity. Likewise, the same treatment devices that have been found adequate in the constructive treatment of the white prisoner have been found to be equally effective in the treatment of the Negro prisoner.

However, the findings of this study indicate very definite aspects of the larger treatment programs, elements of particular interest in the treatment of the Negro prisoner:

First - Definite vocational training for those inmates whose intelligence and cooperativeness make such a plan of instruction possible.

Second, - Continued efforts for constructive work along the lines of avocational pursuits, with special interests in music.

Third, - A recognition plus an appreciation of the Negro Prisoner's dual concept of injustic, having its roots in feelings of inferiority; making possible very definite efforts toward achievement, through the mechanism of compensation along constructive lines of behavior.

Fourth,-Except in isolated cases, the securing of Negro sponsors for those inmates whose programs call for sponsorship.

Fifth, - The affecting of very definite "tie-ups" between staff members and individual inmates.

These elements of treatment particularized in connection with the larger programs of treatment characteristic of the "Norfolk Plan" indicate the most favorable cossibilities for success in the rehabilitation of the Negro prisoner.

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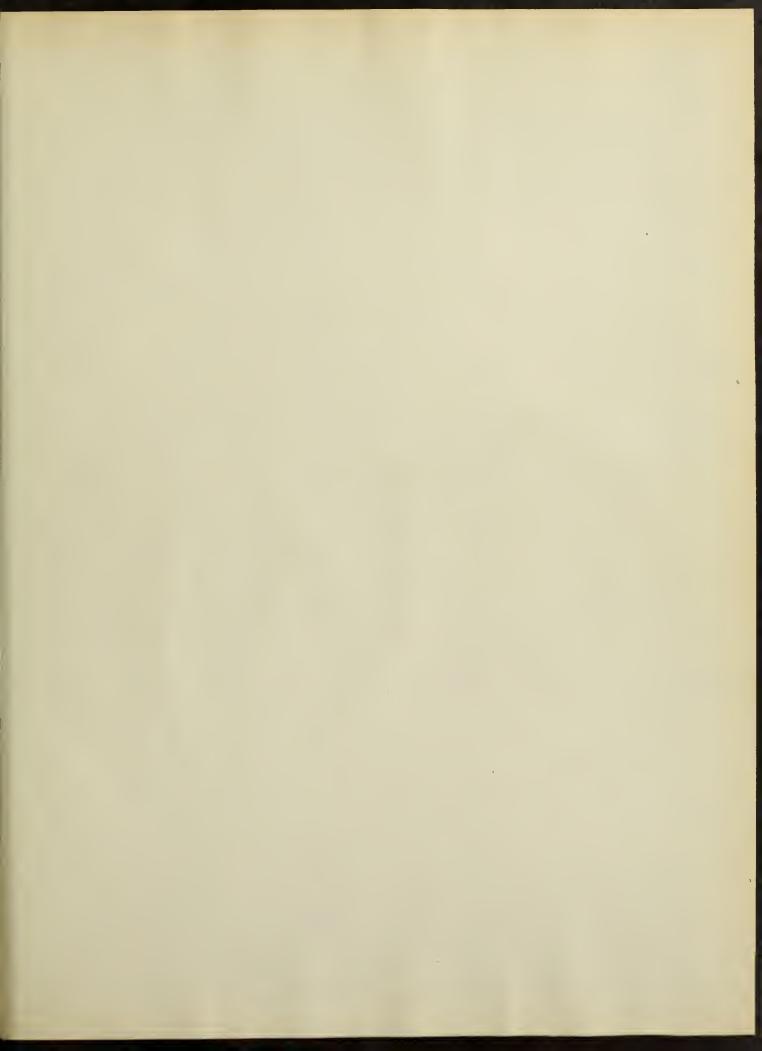
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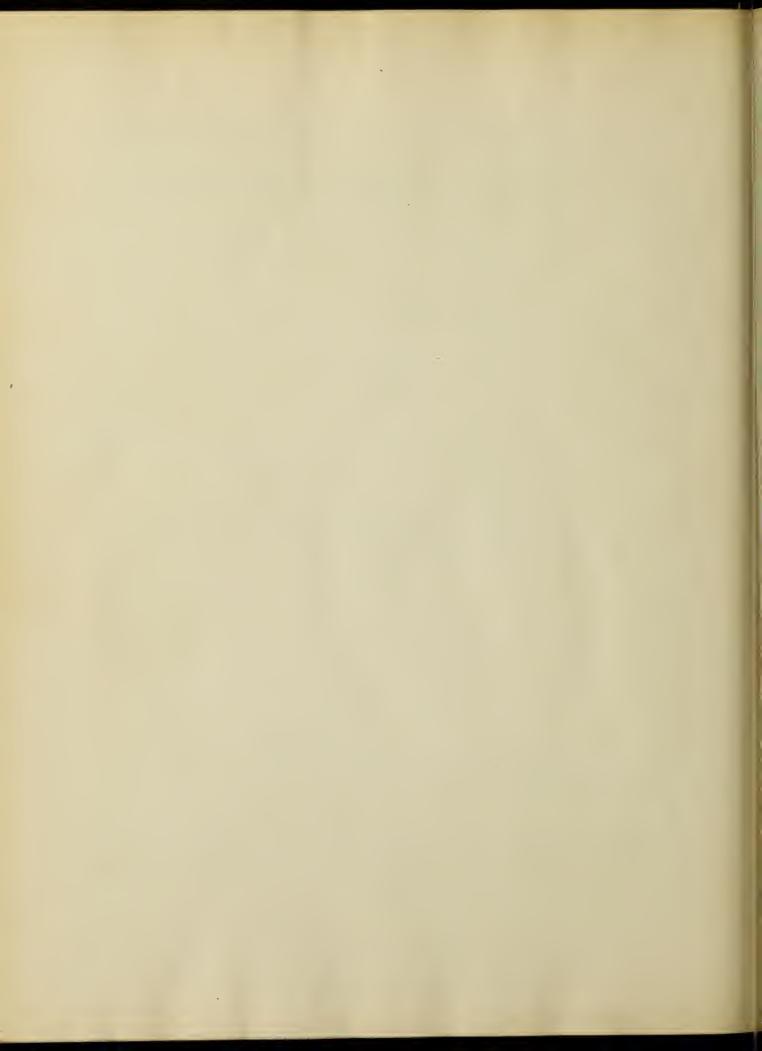
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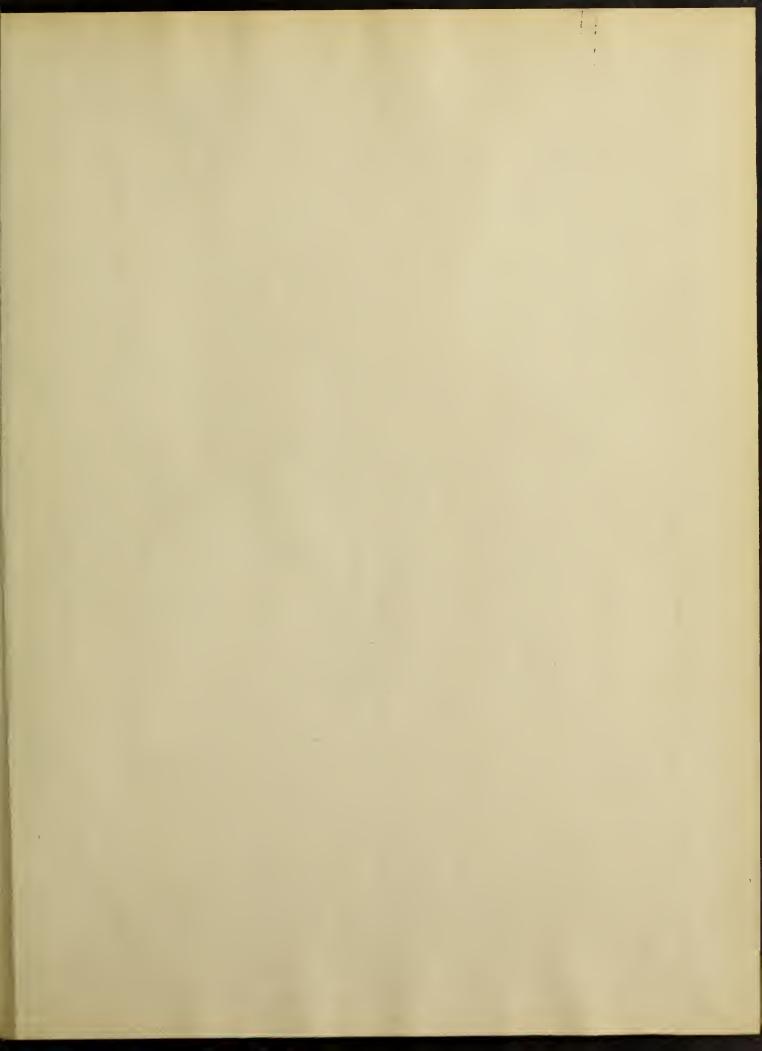
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